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CONTENTS

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

- 'LE MONDE' Cites Algiers' 'Irritation' at Rumor of Moroccan
Overtures
(LE MONDE, 30 Oct 80) 1

AFGHANISTAN

- 200 Afghans Killed in Soviet Bombing
(THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 23 Oct 80) 2
- Heavy Toll in Battle at Ghorband Valley: School Girls Stone
Russians
(THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 19 Oct 80) 3
- Major Soviet Offensive in Paktia Province
(THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 25 Oct 80) 4
- Hizb al-Islami Leader Stresses Unity/Russian Losses
(JASARAT, 28 Sep 80) 6
- Mujahideen Inflicting Heavy Losses on Karmal Government
(BALUCHISTAN TIMES, 25 Oct 80) 7
- Briefs
Mujahidin Attack Qandahar Airport 8
Afghan Official Takes Refuge in Pakistan 8
Afghanistan Prisoners Freed 8
Traders Open Shops Under Threat 9

EGYPT

- Armed Forces Chief of Staff Responds to Crucial Questions
(Abu Ghazalah Interview; AL-MUSAWWAR, 26 Sep 80) 10

IRAN

- Civil War Anticipated If Khomeyni Dies Soon
(CHATAN, 25 Aug 80) 19

Leftist Magazine Interviews President of Iran (Bani-Sadr Interview; ANDI, 10 Oct 80)	25
LEBANON	
Franjiyah Discusses Political Trends, His, Lebanon's Future (Sulayman Franjiyah Interview; AL-'ASR, 3 Oct 80).....	30
MOROCCO	
Foreign Minister Discusses Saharan Question in France (MAP, 30 Oct 80)	37
Joint Communique on Boucetta Visit (MAP, 3 Nov 80)	38
Mauritanian Intervention in Western Sahara Examined (Editorial, Mohamed Tamri; L'OPINION, 27 Sep 80)	40
Briefs	
Protest Over Morocco Visit	42
Forces Foil Mercenary Attack	42
Forces Continue Mopping-Up	43
Geology, Energy Agreements	43
SAUDI ARABIA	
Progress in Agriculture Noted (Bill Wang; ARAB NEWS, 27 Oct 80)	44
Briefs	
Oilfield Developments	46
SYRIA	
Syria Looks for New, Cheaper Ways To Generate Electricity (AL-BA'TH, 25 Aug 80)	47
Two Provinces Start Active Road Building Programs (AL-BA'TH, 20 Aug 80)	49
Briefs	
Aleppo's New Cement Factory	51
The Appropriations Budget's Projects	51
WESTERN SAHARA	
Briefs	
Reported Attack Against Morocco	52
YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC	
Leader Discusses Political, Economic Policies (AL-THAWRAH, 9 Oct 80)	53

'LE MONDE' CITES ALGIERS' 'IRRITATION' AT RUMOR OF MOROCCAN OVERTURES

LD301635 Paris LE MONDE in French 30 Oct 80 p 42

[Dispatch by D.J.: "Algiers Surprised at Rumors of Political Contacts With Rabat"]

[Text] Algiers--The rumors from Rabat reporting political contacts between Algeria and Morocco are being received with surprise and also some annoyance here. A Moroccan officer did visit Algiers 19 October, a reliable source confirmed, but he did not bring any message from President Chadli Bendjedid. His only mission was to convey the consignment of blankets and provisions sent by aircraft from Rabat for the Al-Asnam victims. According to informed circles Algeria had no reasons to refuse such a gift since it could be considered to be a disinterested one.

The rather loud political exploitation of this solidarity by Rabat is causing some irritation here. The fuss being made about "Moroccan initiatives" comes, it is stressed at a time when the West Sahara debate is opening in the UN Decolonization Committee. However, this is no coincidence. It is thought that King Hassan II wishes to appear to be a man of conciliation and dialogue. He also wants to make another attempt to win support for the idea that the Saharan affair amounts to a bilateral conflict between Algiers and Rabat. This idea has always been denied here, and there is no indication that this position has changed.

Algeria is still supporting the Saharans' struggle for self-determination as strongly as ever. If it is doing so with more discretion it is only because of the international recognition obtained by the POLISARIO. The Saharan Republic is now recognized by several dozen states, it has an absolute majority in its favor at the OAU and Algeria, whose arguments have thus won the day, has less need to "be seen in the front line." Algeria is still prepared, as it has always said it is, to help establish direct contacts and negotiations between the POLISARIO and Morocco and does not intend to take the Saharans' place. Furthermore the Saharans would not allow them to do so and they enjoy powerful backing from other quarters, as shown by the visit which a Saharan Democratic Arab Republic delegation is now making to Tripoli.

CSO: 4400

200 AFGHANS KILLED IN SOVIET BOMBING

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 23 Oct 80 p 8

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 22: About 200 Afghans were killed when Soviet MIG fighter jets and helicopter gunships blasted Farza, a town north of Kabul, earlier this month, according to a report in the Indian Express newspaper.

The Express said bombing was "to punish the people for sheltering Afghan guerillas".

It quoted a witness to the attack as saying that half the dwellings in Farza, a town of about 25,000 people, were destroyed in the attack. Most of the residents fled to the safety of nearby mountains.

The witness told the newspaper in New Delhi that he saw a Russian MIG-21 exploding in flames near Farza. Some helicopter gunships were also hit by gunfire, he added.

He said that fruit orchards and standing crops in the area were destroyed by the raid.

According to a report from Kunar province, Russians launched heavy attacks on Dara Noor and Dara Paich in the first week of October, says a Press release by Islamic Alliance for Liberation of Afghanistan.

In Dara Noor, the fighting lasted two days. Mujahideen forced the invaders back and killed more than 200 Russians and Karmal soldiers.

Twenty Mujahideen were martyred. Villages and forests were destroyed by the heavy bombardments by Russians and about 300 sheep were killed. Russian troops and their partners were defeated in Dara Paich and Chapa Dara also.

Mujahideen launched an attack on Khurd Kabul prison about 10 kilometres from Kabul city. They released 42 prisoners, including some women, who were put in jail because of their anti-Government activities.

According to another report, Russian troops and pro-Government militia launched a strong attack on Logas area. Details of the fighting were not known. In one incident in Azraw Muzaj, Mujahideen destroyed five tanks and killed 30 Russians and 35 Karmal soldiers. Three Russian military officers were also killed. One of Mujahideen was killed and two were wounded. — PPI | APA.

HEAVY TOLL IN BATTLE AT GHORBAND VALLEY: SCHOOL GIRLS STONE RUSSIANS

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 19 Oct 80 p 8

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 18: Kabul school girls this week stoned Russian doctors and nurses arriving to vaccinate them and forced the Russians to leave their school, according to a report from Afghanistan.

One doctor and one nurse were slightly injured and four teachers and several students were arrested during the flare-up on last Tuesday at the Zarghona High School, said the report from a Kabul source who in the past has been accurate.

Refusing to be vaccinated by the Russians because of Soviet military occupation of their country, the girls chanted 'Russians go home,' 'Death to Brezhnev' and 'Death to Babrak, servant of Moscow,' the report said.

Their school, Zarghona, was prominent in the 'children's revolt' last April and May when school girls marched into the streets of Kabul and taunted Afghan and Russian soldiers. More than 100 young people were unofficially reported shot dead and thousands arrested.

The Kabul source earlier reported Muslim rebels repelled an attempt by Soviet and Afghan Government troops to capture a strategic valley during a four-day battle with heavy casualties on both sides.

The insurgents killed or wounded 400 Russian soldiers and hundreds of Afghan Communist Party 'volunteers' and tribal mercenaries during the fight to stop the Government from opening the route to central Afghanistan through Ghorband Valley, 80 to 180 kilometres (5 to 62 miles) north-west of Kabul the report said.—APA.

MAJOR SOVIET OFFENSIVE IN PAKTIA PROVINCE

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 25 Oct 80 pp 1, 5

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 24: Hundreds of Soviet tanks and armoured vehicles have launched a major offensive near Afghanistan's eastern border in the Paktia province.

The Russians opened the attack last week from Jardez, 62 miles south-east of Kabul across rugged Paktia province with the help of hundreds of Communist Party, "volunteers" and tribal mercenaries, said the report from a Kabul source that in the past has been accurate.

The report also described stepped-up Soviet bombardment of insurgent-controlled Logar province, south of Kabul in recent days. Many Afghans gathered for prayers on the Eid festival last Sunday were killed or injured during Soviet shelling of a mosque at Nemarkh, south of Kabul, the report said.

Rocket-firing guerilla squads in Kabul in the past week, meanwhile, have attacked several party offices and at least four jeeps carrying party volunteer patrols, with casualties on both sides, the report added.

Two Soviet military officers and a senior official of the Afghan Finance Ministry were killed by Mujahideen in Kabul last week. Western diplomatic sources said in Delhi today.

They said reports of attacks on Russian soldiers and Afghan officials in the Afghan capital continued to reach the diplomatic corps there daily, despite Government and Soviet contentions that the country was turning to normal.

In the latest attacks, on the night of October 15-16 two Soviet officers and the Afghan official were shot dead in separate incidents in a Kabul suburb.

The Soviets confirmed reports that on the same day the car of the Afghan Information Minister was fired on in the southern Afghan town of Kandahar. A bodyguard was

killed but the Minister escaped unscathed.

Other reports add:

Insurgents in Afghanistan have destroyed more than half the Soviet-backed Government's medical and educational facilities, diplomatic sources said in New Delhi today.

The guerillas hardly allowed provincial governments to function. As such, Government officials rarely travelled to the provinces from Kabul, the sources said.

The sources said there was no evidence to support the contention of the Russians and the Afghan Government that the country was returning to normal.

The sources said the Governors of Kandahar in southern Afghanistan and Jalalabad in

the east had recently been replaced. Guerilla activity has been intense in both towns and the surrounding areas, and the sources said that heavy firing continued at night in Jalalabad.

Shooting was also heard at night and sometimes in the day at Ghazni, south of Kabul. Soviet troops stayed in their camps several miles outside Ghazni and only went into the town for shopping.

Guerilla forces in the mountains around Ghazni appeared to have some anti-aircraft and anti-tank weapons.

Soviet leaders might have told Mr. Karmal during his recent visit that political infighting in Kabul was causing damage, the sources said.

There had been a continuing power struggle in Afghanistan between Mr. Karmal's Parcham (flag) wing of the ruling People's Democratic Party (DP) and the mainly-rural Khalq Faction.

Meanwhile, night letters have reappeared in Kabul after an interval of several weeks calling on Afghan army officers either to openly declare their loyalty to the

Soviet-backed regime or join the rebels, Western diplomatic sources said in Delhi today.

Quoting reports from the Afghan capital, the sources said that last Wednesday several Afghan army officers received the night letters asking them to stay in their barracks or residences on Oct. 27 to signify that they do not support the Babrak Karmal regime.

Last Sunday, students and teachers of Kabul University issued night letters calling for a Friday strike beginning yesterday to protest forced conscription and to demand the release of arrested students and others who have completed their terms in the army, the sources said.

Forced conscription was continuing in down town Kabul and residential areas, according to the sources. Last Thursday, a team of Afghan army soldiers shot dead a young man at Ardechar, when he refused to accompany them to the army office for possible conscription. The sources said there was widespread speculation in Kabul of an impending change in the Government.

CSO: 4920

AFGHANISTAN

HIZB AL-ISLAMI LEADER STRESSES UNITY/RUSSIAN LOSSES

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 28 Sep 80 p 1

[Article: "Hikmatyar Claims 20,000 Russians Killed in Afghanistan; Mujahidin Destroyed 800 Tanks and 100 Fighter Planes and Helicopters; Islam Can Become Third World Power by Uniting-Kazi Husayn Ahmed"]

[Text] Abbottabad, 27 September (JASARAT Correspondent)--Engineer Gulbadan Hikmatyar, leader of Afghanistan's Hizb al-Islami said today that the Mujahidin are very encouraged by their efforts and will be awarded with victory soon.

He was addressing a press conference here. He gave a detailed picture of the present Afghan situation. Such as: Afghan Mujahidin were fighting Russians very bravely at each front; The battles are being fought now in central Afghanistan and in the areas bordering with Russia; The Mujahidin with their zeal for freedom and bravery are making the Russians lose confidence. Furthermore, they get modern weapons from the Russians and use them against them. He also said that so far, 800 Russian tanks, 100 fighter planes and helicopters and innumerable armored vehicles have been totally destroyed. According to one estimate, about 20,000 Russians have been sent to hell.

Mr Hikmatyar attended a tea party given by businessmen of Abbottabad Cantonment. Kazi Husayn Ahmad, general secretary of Ahia Alum Mansura, was the chief guest there. Mr Hikmatyar explained the Afghan situation here also. He said that every child in Afghanistan was ready to die for the Holy War that was being fought. God will give us victory.

Malik Umrani, member of the cantonment board, said that we feel it our religious and moral duty to help the members of Hizb-al-Islami who came here leaving everything in Afghanistan. Mullah Kazi Hussayn emphasized the unity of Islam in his speech. He said that if all Islamic countries united they can become the Third World Power. He detailed the schemes that were being used to divide the Muslims and thus weakening them.

Kazi Husayn warned that there will be amazing changes in the near future. This is an important era when balance of power will shift and Islam has to decide which way to turn. Mr Allah Rakh Pal, president of the host organization, expressed his thanks to Kazi Husayn Ahmad, Engineer Gulbadan Hikmatyar, and his followers. The leaders of Hizb-al-Islami and Tahrir-al-Islami were addressing a large gathering at the Shehzada Bukhara Mosque. The following people addressed the meeting there: Mollah Haqani, Mullah Kazi Hussien, Mullah Abdul Huq, Kazi Pir Mohammad, and Amraj-al-Din.

7997

CSO: 4203

MUJAHIDEEN INFLECTING HEAVY LOSSES ON KARMAL GOVERNMENT

Quetta BALUCHISTAN TIMES in English 25 Oct 80 p 4

[Text]

Mujahideen in Afghanistan have destroyed more than half the Soviet-backed Government's medical and educational facilities in the country, western diplomatic sources said in New Delhi today.

The guerrillas hardly allowed Provincial Government to function as such Government officials rarely travelled to the provinces from Kabul, the sources said.

The sources said there was no evidence to support the contention of the Russians and the Afghan Government that the country returning to normal.

The sources said the Governors of Kandahar in southern Afghanistan and Jalalabad in the East had recently been replaced guerrilla activity has been intense in both towns and the surrounding areas. And the sources said that heavy firing continued at night in Jalalabad.

Shooting was also heard

at night and sometimes in the day at Ghasni, South of Kabul, the sources said Soviet troops stayed in their camp several miles outside Ghasni and only went in to the town for shopping.

Guerrilla forces in the mountains around Ghasni appeared to have some anti aircraft and anti-tank weapons. Travel on the Ghasni-Kabul road is feared convoy only because of guerrilla attacks.

Soviet leaders might have told Mr. Karmal during his recent visit that political fighting in Kabul was causing damage, the sources said.

There had been a continuing power struggle in Afghanistan between Mr. Karmal's Parcham (Flag) wing of the ruling people's democratic party and the mainly — rural Khalq faction

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

MUJAHIDIN ATTACK QANDAHAR AIRPORT--New Delhi, 25 September (Radio Report/AFP)--Several soldiers of Karmal government have joined the Mujahidin in Afghanistan and they jointly attacked the Qandhar airport. The eight soldiers joining the ranks of Mujahidins gutted an oil tank under the leadership of a major. Several people were killed in the ensuing skirmishes. According to diplomatic sources in New Delhi, loud reports of explosions were heard in Kabul on Wednesday. These were followed by rifle firing. The next day tanks were also seen on Kabul roads. According to another report, the Mujahidin blew an electric power house near the capital city. AFP reports of strict security measure at Kabul airport. The airport was kept under strict surveillance of the army for several hours. This resulted in delayed flights. One diplomatic source reports that this security precaution was taken for a visiting Russian minister. The BBC referring to some diplomatic sources in Islamabad reported that members of Khalq faction are still being expelled from the party. Mayor of Kabul, Sayyed Allah Quyam and deputy minister of industry, Gulam Mohammad Rahim, have been fired. [Text] [Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 26 Sep 80 p 1]

AFGHAN OFFICIAL TAKES REFUGE IN PAKISTAN--A high official of the Afghan Public Works Ministry (Rais Tameerat Wazarat Pawad-i-Aama) Dr. Abdul Ali has recently crossed over from Afghanistan and taken shelter in Pakistan Radio Pakistan reported today. Dr Ali who obtained doctorate in engineering in the Soviet Union has been serving under the present Babrak Karmal regime in Afghanistan said. The radio quoted the Afghan official as saying in an interview that the Soviet advisers were in virtual control of civil administration in Afghanistan. Under these circumstances he could not continue in service and hence decided to quit and take refuge in Pakistan he added. [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 28 Oct 80 p 1]

AFGHANISTAN PRISONERS FREED--About 900 prisoners have been released from jail in various Afghan provinces during the past few days, Tass reported. It said the last batch of prisoners to gain their liberty consisted of more than 60 who had taken part in anti-Government activities. They had been taken in by "counter-revolutionary" propaganda "and had regretted their crimes," the agency said. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 25 Oct 80 p 8]

TRADERS OPEN SHOPS UNDER THREAT--Afghan authorities prevented an anti-Soviet shutdown of business in Kabul yesterday by threatening shop-owners with fines and loss of their licenses, a report from Afghanistan said today. The strike call was issued in "night letters (shabnasa)," as the Afghans call pamphlets circulated around Kabul by the Muslim freedom fighters, the report said. It requested the people to stage a five day general strike to protest the presence of Russian troops in Afghanistan and what was described as the sale of Afghanistan to the Soviet Union "by President Babrak Karmal, who has been visiting the USSR, for the past 10 days, it added." Meanwhile slackened fighting is reported from Afghanistan, amid feverish building activity to prepare winter quarters for thousands of Soviet troops. Several Russian convoys have been seen in Kabul hauling pre-fabricated sections of what looked like barracks buildings. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 26 Oct 80 p 5]

CSQ: 4920

ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF RESPONDS TO CRUCIAL QUESTIONS

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 26 Sep 80 pp 25-28

[Interview with Lt Gen Abu Ghazalah by Hamdi Lutfi: "Chief of Staff of Our Armed Forces Gives Most Serious Interview to AL-MUSAWWAR; Lt Gen Abu Ghazalah Responds to These Questions: Have Our Armed Forces Strayed from Their Chief Responsibilities as Was the Case Before 1967? Can the United States Control the Weapons of Our Troops Just as the Soviet Union Did in the Sixties? Did We Give the United States a Naval Base and Then Call That Base Military Facilities? If We Were to Set Israel Aside, What Are the Dangers That Are Threatening Egypt at Present? How Did the Officer Who Refused To Carry Out Orders During the War Win the Order of the Military Star?"]

[Text] Men show their metal when homelands face crises and miscalculations.

Groups of people who have more faith, who are more steadfast, and who are more yielding [than others] confront adversity by elevating their homelands above catastrophes and miscalculations.

When the June 1967 setback occurred, many leaders broke down in dismay. At the same time the essential nature and the fine human metal of many men glowed: they worked silently and patiently, joining together the parts [of the army] that had become unreliable and building and constructing [other parts] anew. They worked night and day, making their utmost, tireless efforts. They were able to get rid of negative aspects; to remedy the climate; and to replace the environment; they even overcame the harshest obstacles and difficulties. Ultimately, they did achieve a healthy, radical military transformation, and their heroic feats shone in the eternally connected history of our people's struggle with the nobility of their character and with their effort to win and to take away victory in 1973.

Today, as we approach the seventh anniversary of the sixth of October which will be forever glorious in history, we are conducting an interview with one of those people: one of the leaders of the glorious Ramadan War. He is an important element of the stage of "patience and silence" whose slogan was proclaimed by President al-Sadat in 1972. That stage began the establishment of the glorious October victory. He is a master of the artillery--an Egyptian military intellectual whose name has always been linked to the military in the best military academies both in the east and in the west. Lt Gen Muhamman 'Abd-al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, a native of the village of Qubur al-Umara' which is located in al-Diliinjat

in the governorate of Buhayrah, and the chief of the general staff of our armed forces, is the man for whom the enemy has testified. At an official military meeting that was held last year in Washington, one of the Israeli military commanders said:

"General Abu Ghazalah was firing at us with a high degree of efficiency that was devastating."

Before I go on with my interview with Lt Gen Abu Ghazalah, I would like to narrate this provocative story which I had heard while I was with our armed forces in liberated Sinai during the October 1973 War. This story is a practical indication of the significance of one of the important arts in our life--the art of leading men--and of the skill and the knowledge [involved] in this art which plays a principal role in the progress of our country. Unfortunately, not many people who have assumed positions of leadership in the various sectors are proficient in the art of leadership.

Before and during the October War Lt Gen Abu Ghazalah, whose title then was brigadier general, continued to move among the artillery formations of the second army which was under his command. The fighting had broken out on the sixth of October and had not stopped for one minute. On the third or the fourth day of the war the fighting had become more vicious, and the fire on both sides--our forces and the forces of Israel--had become more intense. On that day as he was passing, the commander of the artillery was surprised to notice a small unit of artillery fighters led by a young officer who had recently graduated from the military college. This unit had fought a major battle and had been subjected to the enemy's surface to surface missiles. The unit had also been subjected to successive Israeli air raids. Abu Ghazalah was surprised to find the unit's guns on the ground, without the trenches that were necessary at the site to ensure safety. The junior officer of the unit, meanwhile, was in a nervous, abnormal state, which usually happens to a few fighters after battles.

After the artillery commander spoke about the battles of that unit, he asked why the young officer had not dug a trench for his guns.

The second surprise came in the officer's reply. The officer had not yet reached the age of 20.

[He said], "I will not dig trenches for the guns, and I will not carry out orders!"

The situation became tense, but Abu Ghazalah, with his well-known self-control, told the junior officer, "Do you know that not digging trenches for the guns exposes them to destruction?"

"Yes, I know."

The situation became even more tense. The young officer's face twitched further, and he shuddered nervously. He seemed as one who had lost his senses.

Brig Gen Abu Ghazalah realized the situation immediately, recognizing what the officer was suffering from, he made a decision immediately and told the junior officer:

"My duty compels me to put you on trial now and to have you executed by a firing squad because you are destroying the morale of your soldiers with your disgraceful conduct and you are spreading a spirit of rebellion in the unit. However, I will not do that. I will be satisfied with discharging you from the service immediately. You are to return immediately to your home and you are to seek shelter there."

Abu Ghazalah concluded his firm statement. He took a shovel and began to dig trenches for the guns. He was accompanied by a brigadier general in the infantry who spontaneously did the same thing. Half a minute went by, and then the soldiers began to pick up shovels and to dig.

The last surprise came when the junior officer took a shovel and knelt beside the commander of the artillery of the second army. He started digging and apologizing for what had come over him. The tears were streaming down his face as he asked his commander to forgive him so he could resume his post.

The commander of the artillery spoke at length and harshly to this inexperienced officer in front of his soldiers [in a manner] that restored to the officer his self-confidence. Meanwhile the soldiers were pleading for forgiveness for their junior officer because he had shown courage, steadfastness and efficiency throughout the four days of combat. [Although] he had undergone a momentary lapse, he soon regained his senses.

Abu Ghazalah, the father, the human being and the commander who knows what happens in battles to the bravest of fighters, forgave this officer and allowed him to resume his duties.

During the interview which I had with the chief of staff of our armed forces in the last few days, I asked him if that story were true, and he confirmed it. He went on to add, "I followed the combat course of that officer day by day. At the end of the war, he received the order of the military star as a reward for the courage he showed in Sinai throughout the October War."

I am writing this story without comment as an indication of the fine results achieved by some leaders who have understood well the art of leading men.

Major Fallacy

[Question] As we prepare for the seventh anniversary of the October 1973 victory, the price that our people paid for the 1967 defeat is still urgently calling for revenge. The lesson itself needs further details in the conversation of everyone who lived through "the experience or the tragedy" so that we can have a store of conflicting or homogeneous information through which history can pass judgment on this period and on its leaders, the rulers of Egypt. What do you think of this?

(Note: During the June 1967 period Lt Gen Abu Ghazalah was heading the educational branch at the Artillery Academy. That branch was teaching officers in the artillery about the science and the development of their weapons.)

[Answer] The June defeat was not the product of a day or a week, but it was rather the outcome of a military and a political climate, and environment that

applied to our armed forces the principle of security before combat efficiency: security for protecting the regime that was in existence then and not real preparation for fighting and for achieving victory. This was the slogan to which Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal devoted a full article in which he discussed people of confidence and people of efficiency. Haykal emphasized the importance of relying on people of confidence, come what may to the people of efficiency. That article aroused considerable clamor because it represented an idea that was prevalent at the time. That idea also implied a major fallacy because the people of efficiency should be people of confidence because of their efficiency. That efficiency was a weapon that protected the efficient from corruption. These are the laws of life. They forgot that confidence strengthens the efficiency of the efficient in a positive way that ultimately serves the country.

It is no secret that the 1967 environment included military commanders whose military knowledge was zero. These commanders, however, were loyal to the regime and did make an effort to protect it. It was natural that we suffer a defeat with such commanders leading our armed forces in a serious war!

[Question] Allow me to ask you a question that is especially sensitive. This is because I am putting before you what has been repeatedly stated by spokesmen who oppose our policy in the Arab homeland. Some of our Egyptian citizens have repeated it with good intentions. In my opinion we must respond clearly and candidly to such opinions so we can get rid of the invisible poison in such talk as it is disseminated in whispers in our midst.

It has been said that by participating at this and the next stage in the construction of services projects that are needed by the people such as transportation, roads, agriculture and housing, the Egyptian armed forces are merely straying from their original duties which are to prepare constantly for combat and to devote themselves to improving combat efficiency so that, God forbid, what happened in 1967 would not happen again. What do you think about this?

[Answer] There is nothing to prevent us from responding to and refuting such statements that stem from total ignorance and ill will, of course.

Our armed forces take part in public activities that are related in a major and in a primary way to the "demands" of our armed forces. I will cite, for example, how this connection comes about.

Among the principal functions of the signal corps in our forces is to lay telecommunications lines to the branches of the armed forces and their fighting formations. When the signal corps lays communications lines for the masses of the people, in addition to the cost reduction and the time reduction that are realized, the corps provides practical, technical training for its officers and its soldiers while using new equipment and developing the equipment that is available to the corps.

To clarify the picture further, I will say that a corps such as the signal corps must spend limited hours every week in practical, military training. It will necessarily utilize its technical equipment; that is, it will wear out its equipment on a practical level. Why then shouldn't corps members train in fields that would ultimately achieve the required results of training and contribute at the same time to solving the public's telephone problems?!

There is a Provisions and Supply Authority in our armed forces. There are more than 13 major departments affiliated with that authority. Among them is an appropriations department one of whose functions is to provide food to the formations that fight on the battlefield. If this authority were to establish a cheese factory or even help the Ministry of Supply build a food plant, this would constitute the essence of its work and not a deviation from its functions.

Thus we find that we did not ask an armored division to make cheese, but we made that request of a military department whose principal function is to contribute with all its energies to providing food.

The same applies to the Department of War Supplies which is the department responsible for providing clothing to the armed forces. What if this department were to contribute towards relieving the public's suffering and were to offer its capabilities to provide civilian clothing also? The machines that produce the overalls for the field can also produce pajamas, shoes and other [items of clothing] for the public.

The corps of engineers includes construction battalions for buildings, for concrete work and for defence emplacement work for the armed forces. The corps also builds bridges and paves roads on the battlefield for the fighting formations. What if this corps were to build a road or a new bridge that would contribute to solving the problems of overcrowdedness and congestion which Cairo and other cities are suffering from? Is not this the essence of the functions of the corps of engineers? Did we bring an infantry brigade or an air defense [brigade] to build a bridge or to construct a new road?

We come to our air forces which have C-130 transport planes for carrying supplies, munitions and, of course, soldiers. Even if these airplanes did not fly and if they remained grounded for 2 years--and this would not be logical--they would have to undergo a "tune-up [operation]. Why then not benefit from the flight hours in the airplane's life by transporting foods from one country to another? We also transport from abroad to the homeland the purchases that are made by the state or by the armed forces. All these functions provide actual training programs for our pilots and for the crews that assist them. These functions also allow us to use the hours during which we are allowed to use the airplanes and operate the equipment without causing a shortage or a delay in the demands of our armed forces at all. Such cooperation with the state and with its civilian sectors takes place according to prearranged planning and scheduling that does not conflict with the principal programs and needs of our air forces.

Does the fact that the transport airplanes of our armed forces take part with the civilian transport sectors to provide food for the people in the various governorates signify that we used a squadron of Phantoms or Mirages to carry out the transport operations that we are talking about?

[Question] Do other armies in large or in small countries carry out such civilian functions in their homelands?

[Answer] Of course. I will tell you about the People's Republic of China which I visited. I found that the Chinese were putting into practice an ideal system in

the Chinese armed forces. For every infantry division, for example, they designated a certain area of land so that that division can cultivate the land with various crops to feed its own fighters. The division thus gets no food or grain from the state.

I recall my visit to the 196th infantry division when I visited the People's Republic of China in 1975. This division was stationed in an area that was about 150 kilometers from Peking. Do you know what I found there?

The military intellectual, the veteran master of artillery and the chief of staff of our armed forces answered his own question and said:

I found they had farms, not one farm, for cattle and poultry; I found a cheese plant, bakeries, a pharmaceutical laboratory and a clothing plant. I also found that the basic force of that division spent 6 hours every day in military training and 6 hours in agricultural and industrial production. The families of the officers and soldiers worked all day in production in the factories, the farms or in the fields.

I tested the level of their military training in a practical exercise they performed in front of me. They achieved during that exercise high levels of combat performance.

Let me leave the People's Republic of China and its armed forces and take you back to the technical capability of our armed forces. Our armed forces have an enormous capability which is more than excellent technically. There are maintenance workshops where equipment can be repaired in the factories. These workshops were designed to operate at average war rates, and these are high. This capability is not used in its entirety in times of peace. In fact, parts of this capability are almost idle. The equipment that manufactures gearboxes and spare parts for tanks can manufacture gearboxes for civilian vehicles to meet the needs of the public.

The Difference Between a Base and Facilities

[Question] Your excellency, Lt Gen, I have another question for you that I will present to you candidly.

It has been said that there was no difference between the facilities that Egypt was offering to the U.S. forces in the Red Sea and the acquisition by those forces of a base over which they would operate. Statements made by Egyptian officials on this subject are fallacious—even though as a correspondent who has been working with the armed forces for 28 years I am well aware that such an explanation is basically fallacious. These are not our statements. I would like you to elaborate, [or that matter] if only for the sake of truth. What do you think?

[Answer] Very clearly we must first establish the definition of a base? The chief of staff went on to say [the following]:

A base is an area of land which the state leases to a foreign country for a period of time. The country that leases the land has sovereignty over that area of land which it leased. This means that it can launch from that base attacks by air or by sea against any one of its enemies without notifying the country which owns the

land. The country that owns the base has no right also to enter into the area of the base itself without the permission of the country that is leasing it. The country that is leasing the base has the right to fly its flag over the base. This is what happened with regard to Britain, West Germany and South Korea and then the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. All these countries leased bases on their land to the U.S. armed forces.

Some of us are forgetting the al-Dhahrain base in Saudi Arabia or the Soviet navy base in Aden. In Libya there are Russian bases that have not been announced even though they do in fact exist in the Gulf of al-Sallum, in Benghazi and in Tripoli. The rejectionist newspapers in the Arab area have stated that these were areas where the Russian fleet was stationed. They are in fact Soviet bases.

So much for military bases; but this is not what happened here.

The facilities that we are actually offering are being offered by the state--just like any state can offer another friendly state facilities so it can accomplish a specific task. These facilities remain under the control and the supervision of the host country; the other country does not fly its flag over the area where these facilities are granted. That area remains part of the land that is controlled by the country that owns the land. The officers and the soldiers of the guest country are subject to the laws of the country which owns the land. In this respect they are like any visiting, foreign tourist. In fact, officers and soldiers are not allowed to wear their military uniform outside the area that is determined for them by the host country.

The Americans who are working with our air forces are cooperating with us for a pre-determined period of time. They are working in a well-known Egyptian air force base; the West Cairo base. They work inside a brick fence; outside the fence they must wear civilian clothing. No U.S. officer, soldier, or person can depart or arrive without Egypt's permission and full supervision. Likewise, the state that has acquired facilities may not carry out any military action, nor may it use its forces against any other country without the official approval of the host countries.

You will also find that permission is requested from every country in the world when the military airplanes of another country pass through a country's air space. Those airplanes may also land to refuel. Such cooperation is one form or one way of providing facilities; all countries continue to cooperate in this fashion.

A short time ago a military airplane that belonged to the Saudi forces landed at Cairo International Airport, and it got what it needed. The same thing happened with regard to European airplanes and, in fact, Russian airplanes also recently received the facilities that they had requested. These facilities that we offer the United States; [the latter] are consistent with our political and our military strategy.

[Question] I told the Egyptian commander who had studied in the Soviet Union with an Egyptian military delegation between 1957 and 1961 and had then joined the American Carlisle College of War--one of the best military colleges in the United States from which famous U.S. generals like Patton, Marshall and Eisenhower had

graduated, a college which he had joined in the mid seventies and graduated from in 1979--I told Lt Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, the expert of military exercises, about which he has written several books and the expert on artillery and surface to surface missiles [the following]:

In your position of leadership now, can you speak to us frankly about the "dangers" that are presently threatening Egypt?

[Answer] The danger that surround Egypt now outnumber those that surrounded us at a time when our only enemy was Israel. If we were to talk about Libya, we would find that al-Qadhdhafi alone cannot launch an armed attack against Egypt because he lacks the military cadres and capabilities to launch such an attack. However, with help from mercenaries, al-Qadhdhafi does pose a threat to Egypt at some time.

Al-Qadhdhafi has turned Libya into a fertile ground for the mercenaries he recruited from amongst Russians, Cubans, East Germans and from other eastern countries. This is besides the Palestinians whom he uses for their destructive objectives only. If those mercenaries were to put together the weapons that al-Qadhdhafi has amassed, they would create another Afghanistan in the area. This situation in itself poses a major threat because the Soviet Union may in fact create a new Afghanistan out of the Arab area, taking advantage of the Arab leaders--and al-Qadhdhafi is among them--whom they control completely. The Soviet Union would do so by concluding a secret agreement with one of the Arab leaders. The Arab leader, who is a tool of the Russians, would then ask for Moscow's aid, and Moscow would interfere immediately or would carry out a coup in one of the rejectionist countries so as to place its obedient clients at the head of the government.

[Question] What about Ethiopia, Sudan and the waters of the Nile, Your Excellency, Lt Gen? It has been said that the estrangement that has occurred between us and Khartoum was due to the waters of the Nile and the fact that they were diverted to Sinai in order to overcome the obstacles that stood in the way of the comprehensive peace process: the rights of Palestine, the return of Jerusalem, the removal of the settlements and the remaining [considerations] that were covered by the Camp David Accords. What is the truth?

[Answer] There are no problems whatsoever with Sudan regarding the waters of the Nile. The government of Sudan, however, is suffering from political or economic conditions, and these have already been explained by President Anwar al-Sadat. It is important that I mention that we now have an Egyptian military delegation--air, naval and ground--serving to train the forces of the fraternal country of Sudan. There are many Sudanese students in our various military colleges and academies. Sudanese officers who graduated from Egypt and then also went to France and Britain for further study have acknowledged, and most of them have done so in front of us when we met with them, that they learned [in Europe] half of what they learned in Egypt. They said that these powerful countries conceal from them the most recent [information in] the military arts and sciences which the officers of these countries are studying.

Ethiopia's threats are directed basically against Sudan. For us, the waters of the Nile constitute a matter of life or death. The latest news indicates that a rapprochement between Addis Ababa and Khartoum has taken place. In the final

analysis we are not advocates of war, and it would be beneficial to all of us if peace were to prevail among the countries of the region.

This Will Not Happen Again

[Question] Allow me to bring to your attention the "point of view" which some people entertain on the matter of cooperation with the United States and on the weapons we get from the United [as a means of] putting into practice the strategy of having multiple sources of weapons.

This "point of view" states that we are pursuing a futile course and that the United States will ultimately become the sole supplier of weapons to our armed forces and [thus] gain the control that the Soviet Union had over us just as was the case in the sixties. How do you respond to these statements that are being made in secret, statements whose clandestine, malevolent objective is not unknown to us?

[Answer] You yourself have responded to your question with what you mentioned at the end of the question. But I will add the following:

Our supreme political command and our military command are quite vigilant regarding the consideration to which you referred. We are fully aware of how superpowers use the fact that they produce weapons and provide them to some government to exert political pressure that would serve their interests. This is what happened in our experience with the Soviet Union, and it will not happen again.

The United States sold 60 modern Phantoms to Saudi Arabia, but it removed some of the sophisticated electronic equipment in those airplanes!

The strategy of having multiple sources of weapons is based on a philosophy that stems from our view--which is clarified to us by this philosophy--that the countries which produce weapons are divided into three groups.

The first group is represented by the superpowers, the United States and Russia. They are capable of producing weapons of any kind and at any time. Accordingly, they are capable of filling orders in the shortest time possible and in large quantities.

The second group [consists of] the advanced industrial countries such as Britain, France, Germany and the People's Republic of China. These countries produce weapons, but they cannot fill orders in the time determined by the importing countries and in the quantities they require.

The third group is represented by the countries that produce specific kinds of weapons such as Italy, Spain, Korea and Brazil. At the same time these countries do not have the capabilities for development that exist in world industrialization. Italy, however, has achieved major progress in the manufacture of naval units. All these countries are experiencing special economic conditions that make them incapable of offering the importing countries any favorable terms for making payments.

We come after that to the developing countries which are trying to build such an industry in their homelands. Egypt and a few Latin American countries are among these countries.

It is through this philosophy and this political understanding that we make plans for what we can acquire through purchases not only from the United States, as your question stated, but also from France, Britain, West Germany, Italy and also a few countries of the eastern bloc. Let me not add anything further. But it has been through our special strategy that we did acquire a flexibility whose results have been good. For example, it is easy to obtain electronic equipment from Italy for a French airplane that we have; or we can make this equipment in our country. We have in fact succeeded in doing so, and a country like France has asked if it can purchase an Egyptian invention which we added to one of the modern French airplanes which are used by the artillery and by surface to surface missiles.

At any rate we will find that ultimately it is better to diversify the sources of weapons and to be quite vigilant regarding what happens around us so that we would not become prisoners or subject to the "world game."

It is important for me to explain that modern weapons represent a huge economic burden on all the countries in the various groups that I mentioned to you--even the United States. But as we say modern weapons are "a necessary evil."

[Question] I am asking you a question as a military intellectual and writer.

You have published 33 books. What is your favorite book?

[Answer] "The History of the Arts of War" which has five volumes. It discusses war from the Stone Age to the end of the Vietnam War.

[Question] Are you preparing a new book?

[Answer] Yes, I work on it occasionally, but I have recently stopped. It is entitled "Memoirs of an Egyptian General." In the chapters of that book I discuss the experiences I have had since I graduated from the Military College on the 2nd of February 1949. [It will cover my experiences] until such time when I should complete it, God willing, perhaps next year or the year after that.

[Question] A final question. Have you come close to death on the battlefield?

The father of Tariq, a student of medicine in the United States; the father of Ashraf, a secondary school student in East Cairo; and the father of three girls, one of whom has graduated and is practicing medicine--Abu Ghazalah, the fighter who is loved by his soldiers and his officers as a commander, a father and a human being who is rich in human emotions and fine conduct--replied:

[Answer] I came close to death in Sinai on the 23rd of October 1973. I was riding a military vehicle and I was on my way to investigate the bridgehead of the second infantry division. My colleague, Riyadh Jad, who is one of the commanders of the infantry, was with me. There was another artillery officer with us, the late Raja'i Fu'ad. A mine exploded in the car, and the car blew up and [its parts] scattered into small pieces. My friend Raja'i lost his life and so did the driver. Riyadh Jad was wounded in the chest. When I became conscious, I found myself reciting the Moslem creed, and I was not hurt. It was the will of God. I came close to death in that experience, and I came close to the Almighty Creator who gave me a new life.

CIVIL WAR ANTICIPATED IF KHOMEYNI DIES SOON

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 25 Aug 80 pp 14-17

[Article: "Who After Khomeyni?"]

[Text] Twenty months ago the Shah of Iran was deposed from his throne. Since then, Ayatollah Khomeyni, for better or worse, has been taking care of the country. The Ayatollah says himself that he will not live long. He is 80 years old now, and from heart ailments to worry about conditions in Iran, everything affects him. Since last winter, Khomeyni, on the advice of his doctors, has been living in the suburbs of Tehran. An ambulance with a red Islamic crescent flag always waits outside his residence. A number of Western diplomats who are still stationed in Tehran and some Iranian officials agree that if Imam Khomeyni dies within the next year, Iran will be engulfed in a civil war and all the efforts of the mullahs to establish a government in Iran will be of no use. Even so, it is definitely apparent that Iran will not join the communist bloc. One White House commentator, who has deep insight into Middle East affairs, said in London: "The supposition (that Iran would join the communist bloc) is irrational. The resurgence of Islam, which has taken place in Iran, will survive even after Khomeyni, because this resurgence has already spread to Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Gulf region. It is unthinkable that there will be anything but an Islamic government in Iran for the next 10 years."

The type of government which may be established in Iran after Khomeyni could be a hard line dictatorship, Islamic in name only. Or, it could be a hybrid type of government coming into existence as a result of cooperation between the mullahs and the secular technocrats. In view of the muddled situation in Iran today, the future is very hard to predict. Many political analysts doubt that the present circle of mullahs, which is composed of old disciples of Khomeyni, would survive his death.

Most of the present Iranian leaders have been Khomeyni's disciples. Among them is Ayatollah Beheshti, shrewd leader of the Islamic Republican Party and a staunch follower of Islamic fundamentalism. Beheshti has tried at every step to downgrade Iranian President Bani-Sadr, and is now in control of both, the supreme court and the parliament. Ayatollah Kalkhali, who is a notorious judge and known as 'butcher', is also one of Khomeyni's disciples. Some other disciples of Khomeyni are: Minister of Commerce Reza Sadr, Islamic Revolution Prosecutor Shaykh Ali Ghadausi, Minister of the Interior Shaykh Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani,

and at least six members of the dissolved Revolution Council. But the religious leader considered to be Khomeyni's most likely successor is Ayatollah Montazeri.

Khomeyni has had the foresight to prepare all these religious leaders for his theocracy, but the present state of affairs has led to deep frictions among the mullahe. The fact of the matter is that Islam does not recognize the existence of any group of mullahe who have authority to act as middlemen between man and God. But since most Iranians are Shia by faith, they look to the holy city of Qom for guidance. In Iran, it is commonly said that when one is in doubt about anything, he should always consult an Islamic scholar. That is the reason why every Iranian looks to one holy man or another for counsel and advice. Ayatollah Khomeyni has a uniquely respectable position among such holy men. Common people obey his orders with religious fervor and passion, something which Westerners tend to equate with religious fanaticism. The behavior of the armed guards of the 52 American hostages, and of the members of Hezb-e Eqtedar [Eqtedar Party], who attack their leftist opponents in the streets of Tehran, are manifestations of this very religious passion.

The influence of the Shia school of thought is not limited to Iran, but has spread to certain areas of Iraq and the Persian Gulf countries. Shia precepts provide for the constitution of a council of leading Islamic scholars. These scholars are called ayatollah's. Each ayatollah has hundreds of thousands of enthusiastic followers. These scholars are bearers of strange titles, and Khomeyni has been universally acknowledged as the "Grand Scholar," or the "Prince of the Ayatollahs." As far as religious titles are concerned, other members of the council of scholars rank below him in status. Khomeyni's popularity has unquestionably made him head of the council, while he wields political control over Iran. In the past, there was never a time when the scholars accepted a political personality as their leader. The present unique situation has scholars worried over the role of people like Ayatollah Beheshti and Ayatollah Montazeri, who are rising slowly to the top, not on the basis of their knowledge and scholarship, but because of their armed followers.

One Iranian expert said recently in America that in Iran today the only thing that matters is who was foremost in opposing the Shah. This state of affairs has led to the situation where lower level scholars, belonging to the Khomeyni school of thought, have organized councils of sorts which have challenged Iran's centuries-old institutions. It is just possible that such an organizational program was set up by Khomeyni himself. Khomeyni already had feuds with the five great scholars who are called 'ayatollah', and the problems gripping Iran today are an offshoot of that feud.

The crucial thing now, is how the scholars and mullahe, armed only with the Koran, will take charge of a nation in the 20th century. When Khomeyni started teaching in the Edare-ye Elmie of Qom in 1927, he got into trouble. His preaching about Islamic rule in Iran and his attacks on the Pahlavi kings made the leading scholars adopt such a cautious attitude toward him that until 1964 he was not allowed to join the council of scholars. When he was finally allowed to join the council, it was under pressure. Because of his attacks on the Shah's regime, Khomeyni was arrested four times after 1962. Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi then started thinking of putting him to death. At this point, Ayatollah Shari'at Madari, the

influential leader of 13 million Turks of Azerbaijan, intervened with the Shah's regime, and a solution was found. Khomeyni was made the "Grand Ayatollah" and exiled to Iraq. According to Pahlavi law, the Shah could execute an ordinary mullah, but he could not execute the Grand Ayatollah.

Shari'at Madari even now has a seat in the parliament. Differences between him and Khomeyni on the question of a new Islamic constitution caused severe riots in Azerbaijan last winter. Ayatollah Madari was strongly opposed to the idea that a religious scholar should hold all sorts of controls in the government, as Khomeyni now does. An expert on Eastern affairs commented on this in London, saying that not only Shari'at Madari, but a great majority of the scholars want to instill the teachings of Islam in the hearts of people, rather than use Islam merely as an instrument of power. Shari'at Madari has kept silent on most issues, because he does not want to stir up a civil war between the people of Azerbaijan and the Khomeyni government by his remarks. Even when the revolutionary guards executed by firing the leaders of the Islamic Republican Party of Azerbaijan, on charges that they had connections with Savak, Shari'at Madari refused to denounce the revolutionary guards for this act. Those who have visited him at his residence in Qom say that he is living under (house arrest?). The atrocities that have been committed in the name of Khomeyni have (intimidated?) the great scholars.

Ayatollah Kho'i, keeper of the holy places of Najaf, Ayatollah Qomi, grand scholar of Mashhad, and Ayatollah Shirazi have already said in repressed voices that Iran is now slowly departing from the Islamic path. Last month, they expressed their views after a weekly Jom'eh [Friday] prayer gathering. Their followers even exchanged angry words with Khomeyni supporters. The demonstrations that took place in Azerbaijan last winter show how well the orders of these religious leaders are obeyed by their followers. Commenting on those demonstrations, an Iranian said that Shari'at Madari would have to say only one word, and 13 million Azerbaijanis, ready to martyr themselves, would break loose on Tehran. But Shari'at Madari does not want to do any such thing. He is a quiet person, and so are the other ayatollahs. They do not like a holy war against another ayatollah, but they say privately that Khomeyni should restrain his over zealous supporters and workers.

All those who are experts on or know anything about Islam are riding the wave of orthodoxy and fundamentalism that has spread in Iran today. Peasant mullahs lead revolution councils and pass sentences on anti-revolution elements. They have unprecedented authority. An American professor, who specializes in Iranian politics, says: "The rural mullahs are doing this reluctantly. Most of them want to follow the example of Ayatollah Taleqani, that is, they want to have nothing to do with politics, and want to return to the mosques." Ayatollah Taleqani was a social reformer and a staunch opponent of the Shah. After the revolution, he died of a heart attack.

A British expert on Eastern affairs has expressed the opinion that the armed mullahs roaming the streets of Iran will stay armed, and that those who argue that politics and the atrocities of the fundamentalists have no place in Islam (do not quite know what they are talking about). In the government, the fundamentalists have cornered all their opponents, including Bani-Sadr. Ayatollah Khomeyni recently warned Bani-Sadr that the new government was going to be one hundred percent Islamic. Now, Bani-Sadr has no choice. It is

Ayatollah Beheshti who can do what he wants. Beheshti controls the Majlis, that is, the parliament, and for key ministries, including the premiership and the ministry of oil, he is selecting only those who toe the party line.

Inside the parliament, Beheshti's men have started an open fight with their secular opponents. This fighting has severe consequences, so much so that when the Islamic Republic Party accused Ahmad Madani of contact with the CIA, Ahmad Madani did not even talk back. It must be remembered that Madani was the second man in line for the presidency of the country. Even the supporters of Mehdi Bazargan and members of the National Front have become targets of the fundamentalists, and many Western sources say that this well-respected group will also go underground because of the threats against it.

It would not be out of place to mention here that even some close confidants of Bani-Sadr have been caught in the cleanup movement of the Islamic Republican Party. Each government office has an Islamic society which aims at uprooting anti-revolution elements in that office. These societies are, in general, related to the Islamic Republican Party. During the last three weeks, they have made attacks on Ali Reza Nobari, governor of the Central Bank, and Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh, who want to lessen the influence of the mullahs in the government.

The armed forces have also become the targets of the fundamentalist mullahs. Officers trained in the U.S. have generally been labelled as being pro-Shah. The revolutionaries are worried that the foreign-trained officers may be unhappy with the political changes that are taking place, and that they might revolt. Nor are the doubts of the revolutionaries baseless. Recently, 300 army personnel, including air force generals and a former chief of police, were arrested on charges that they planned to blow up the residences of Khomeyni and Bani-Sadr with Phantom F-4 fighters. Air force pilots and other personnel often have to take orders from mullahs who know almost nothing about the latest weaponry. If the personnel disobey, they are sentenced to hard labor. The British press recently reported that one mullah ordered a pilot to shoot down a spy satellite flying 3,000 kilometers above the ground, way out of the range of aircraft. When such is the state of affairs, the possibility of a revolt in the army cannot be ruled out. The mullahs' interference has alienated the army and a large segment of the technocrats, the intellectuals and the business community--groups which want to (calm?) Iran down. Political analysts say that if Beheshti compels Bani-Sadr to resign, whatever technocrats are left in industry and government would leave Iran and join with the other Iranian exiles.

The threats of the mullahs have had another bad consequence. Because of them, middle-of-the-road elements in Iran and Iranian minorities have been compelled to adopt extremist attitudes. When the revolutionary guards temporarily arrested the leader of the half million Kazaks, Kazak (representatives?) organized a protest and walked out of the majlis. The Kurds also are ready to fight the Tehran Government, because no attention has been paid to their demands for autonomy. The Kurds blame the Islamic Republican Party for creating the tension.

Terrorists activities against the mullahs are also on the increase. Recently, there were three bomb explosions in central Tehran, in which 6 people were killed and 100 wounded. An organization named Forqan was blamed for these

explosions. This organization undertakes political murders. Last year, it was accused of assassinating several mullahs. The Marxist-Leninist group Fedayin is pursuing underground activities in the provinces of Khuzestan and Kurdistan. Its aim is to turn these secret activities into open guerilla warfare against the mullahs. The Islamic Republican Party, by allowing only religious fundamentalists to take part in the 100 percent Islamic government of Khomeyni, has increased its own chances of a rapid downfall.

Bani-Sadr, who looks meek because of his moustache and eyeglasses, has finally been driven to vent political anger. His supporters have made public cassette tapes which tell how certain officials of the Islamic Republican Party are busy downgrading his administration. Recently, Bani-Sadr's newspaper scored points over Beheshti's newspaper in the matter of granting the title of "Grand Ayatollah" to Ayatollah Montazeri. Ayatollah Montazeri leads the Friday prayer in Qom, and Bani-Sadr's paper prints his messages on the front page.

Many political analysts say that Montazeri's personality lacks the religious and political charisma which can have the same kind of hold on Iran that Khomeyni has. For this reason, both Beheshti and Bani-Sadr think that the post of a religious chief of state should be made a merely ceremonial post. Anyway, should Montazeri succeed Khomeyni, Beheshti would still have the upper hand. Beheshti and Montazeri both studied under Khomeyni at the same time, and both of them took part in revolutionary activities. One Iranian observer remarked that these persons do not trust Western-educated people like Bani-Sadr and Mehdi Bazargan. Within the Islamic Republican Party, it often becomes hard to distinguish between opportunism and faithfulness to Khomeyni.

Since they follow Khomeyni's instructions only formally, and not in spirit, Beheshti and his group hold the view that religious zeal should be used or exploited for their own objectives. At one point, Ayatollah Beheshti organized demonstrations in front of the American embassy in Tehran solely to thwart the efforts of Bani-Sadr and Qotbzadeh in connection with the release of the hostages. Thus, release of the hostages could not be accomplished. Hojatolislam M (Khamene'i) the spiritual leader of the armed guards, dealt a severe blow to Bani-Sadr's prestige by following the orders of the Islamic Republican Party. Hojatolislam A Rafsanjani is in close contact with Hezb-e Allahi [Divine Party]. Rafsanjani was recently elected speaker of the majlis. The Hezb-e Allahi people have compelled their secular opponents to go underground and have harassed newspapers not connected with the Islamic Republican Party to the extent that they have folded.

Beheshti has done careful planning to end up in the center of power. Reliable sources say that before the revolution, Beheshti was called "Mr Cassette," because he used to arrange the smuggling of Ayatollah Khomeyni's cassettes into Iran. In March 1979, Khomeyni ended his 15-year exile and made a triumphant return to Iran. By this time, Beheshti had already founded and become the leader of a well organized party, the Islamic Republican Party.

Western diplomats say that Beheshti had completed the organizational groundwork for the party in the autumn of 1978. At that time, Khomeyni was still in France, and used to say that once the Shah was ousted, he would consider his work done and retire peacefully to the quiet of the mosques of Qom. But Khomeyni's work

is not done. Acknowledging the shortcomings of the revolution, he said not long ago that the Islamic courts were in bad shape, and that the situation was not any different as far as the army and other institutions were concerned.

Lately, Washington and anti-revolution elements have been blamed for the ailments of Iran. It was recently revealed that Egyptian radio stations have been broadcasting anti-Khomeyni propaganda, and that high American officials have privately met with the former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar and his former generals who are opponents of the present regime. But the fact of the matter is that many of the ills that have befallen the revolutionary government are of its own doing. Authority is still divided between two groups. The extremists, sabotaging Iran's rebirth in the wake of the revolution, have played lightly with the solidarity of the country.

Khomeyni himself is to blame to an extent. His anti-Western viewpoint spells political hazards for the Middle East. His vision lacks breadth. Now that the constitution of Iran decrees that the mullahs will run the country, it is no longer relevant to wonder how an Islamic government will be really run. The threats of the fundamentalists, and the killings and bloodshed, have created two extreme factions in the country. If Khomeyni dies soon, Iran will be caught in a war between these two extremist factions.

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LEFTIST MAGAZINE INTERVIEWS PRESIDENT OF IRAN

Athens ANDI in Greek 10 Oct 80 pp 25-27

[Interview with Iranian President Bani-Sadr by Sofia Andonopoulou]

[Text] Question: What are the principles governing Iran's foreign policy? What type of relations are you seeking to have with other countries?

Answer: Speaking from a scientific viewpoint, relations are established in two ways. According to one way, the type of relations which are established between countries is imposed on both parties. The two sides have certain advantages, they make exchanges. They exchange in a way that ensures the two systems that they will remain as they were, will continue to survive according to the previously prevailing conditions. The other type of relations is that within which the two systems are destroyed completely in order to be replaced by a new situation. The first type of relations is that which sovereign countries impose on dominated countries, the strong countries on the weak. The second type of relations is that which weak countries must establish among themselves, the dominated countries who want to destroy the system in force.

The type of relations which we want to re-establish between Iran and other countries certainly does not belong to the first category. We will have to re-establish a type of relations within which we will destroy the system in force.

The strong countries, the imperialist countries, have imposed an order, as it is called, on our world. If we destroy this "order," if we change the present situation, it is natural for it to seem like some great event has happened, to seem to us that the change has occurred in a disorderly, irregular way because this imperialistic order has been imposed on us as the only model.

If I now wish to transform this answer of mine in a political way to a political language, I would have to say that the type of relations which we want to have with other countries is relations against the imperialist powers, against the sovereign countries. We must put an end to this epoch in which the imperialist powers told us and are telling us, made us believe, that if the weak countries re-establish independent relations among themselves, they cannot develop; that, at any rate, they will have to have relations with the imperialist countries. But what we want to show is that the weak countries can and must have independent relations among themselves, that they will not have to build relations with the imperialist countries.

Only in this way can they destroy the sovereignty and imperialism of the western and eastern bloc, particularly of America and the Soviet Union.

Question: What is the strategy of your foreign policy concerning the Third World, the non-aligned countries and the European countries?

Answer: As I told you previously, our general policy is a policy which aims at the destruction of the imperialist countries' sovereignty. Our world is presently organized in a system with many contrasts between the superpowers of the west and east and the rest of the world. All the rest of the world is forced to follow this order of things. We must create an equilibrium within which we can isolate the two superpowers, America and the Soviet Union, so that the other countries--the weak and these a bit stronger, the countries which are dominated--are liberated. In other words, the other countries, aside from the superpowers, must re-establish such relations among themselves that the oppressed peoples can be united, can build a strong unity, a strong totality. This strong totality is very different from that which Mao spoke of. This strong totality will allow the weak countries to make themselves independent of the imperialist countries. This is my political position.

Question: What is your evaluation of the international situation and what do you estimate as a possible revolutionary development in the future?

Answer: From what I told you before in answer to the other two questions, it is clear that in the world today there are two currents which are continually colliding. In Europe, the capitalistic current which follows that two superpowers, particularly America, prevails. European capitalism thinks that its attachment to America is the sole condition for its survival and that the moment which will mean its separation from American capitalism will also be the moment of its death. However, another current is also being developed in Europe which says, for example, that if the weak countries are able to build a front among themselves, if they succeed in being united, they will be able to defend themselves.

Which of these two currents will win depends on our role, the role which Iran will play. If we succeed in creating a strong current in countries like our own, we will be able to strengthen this second current in Europe and in this way we will be able to create a revolutionary current in other countries of the world. Thus, even in the superpowers, America and the Soviet Union, even within these countries themselves, some currents could be developed against the over-concentration of power.

Question: You have been elected president of this country by the great majority of the Iranian people. What are the guidelines of the program which you presented to the Iranian people?

Answer: My plan and program for Iran is written in my book "The Islamic Republic." Perhaps you can find it translated into English. There are four basic units there: independence, defense, economy, ideology. Why ideology? Because, in my opinion, we cannot and must not apply our principles, our policy, with coercion. If we do not use the ideologic factor, then the only route remaining is coercion. But, in my opinion, we cannot and must not use any coercion whatsoever. We cannot rebuild, for example, a devastated economy in a country like ours without a strong power. This strong power can be either coercion, which in this case will create a

Stalinistic regime, or, if it is not coercion, it is the ideologic factor, the ideologic factor which--this and only this--I consider the only solution to our problems.

If we wanted to organize coercion, if we wanted to develop it, to endow it with branches and offshoots, like a strong police force, strong army, etc., then the only thing we would have to do is follow western and eastern imperialism. If we wanted to use force, we would attach ourselves to one of the two imperialist powers.

This is my philosophy. Certainly, with this method, I face many problems because the tendency to use coercion is great. And Iran has survived four-hundred, five-hundred years of tyranny and oppression. And power entices many.

Question: Is there a strong conflict between you and those who follow you, on the one hand, and the Islamic Republican Party, on the other? What are the differences between your perceptions and program and those of the Islamic Republican Party?

Answer: Speaking from a scientific viewpoint, I would say that, in our country, that which we would call a party does not exist because we cannot ascribe the term party to any type of political group. A true party demands a political viewpoint, program, organization, ideology. Based on all these, one could speak about a party. But, in Iran, such a thing which we can call a party does not exist. Despite all these, there are limited political groups. These political groups, in my opinion, do not reflect more than two to four percent of the will of the population within Iranian society. And these political groups consider coercion the only solution to our problems, with the difference that they say the direction of the coercion has significance. In the previous regime, the direction of coercion was from the top to the bottom; now it will have to be from the bottom to the top, from the oppressed people to the oppressors.

But we do not believe this. We believe that the use of coercion splits up the society. The use of coercion would mean nothing other than that one group which was strong and governed and which now has shattered, gave up its place to another group. For example, in the Soviet Union, the Tsar gave up his place to Stalin. Our masses, the Iranian masses, have the culture, the ideology of the "divine unity," the non-use of coercion. Nevertheless, the masses are unorganized. If we want to organize them, this must happen on the basis of suppression of any coercion whatsoever. What we finally need is an absolute science, or something very close to an absolute science.

We must make the society absolutely conscious. This effort must create that knowledge in society which will allow it to build itself on the principle of man's relationship with God, or, in other words, on the principle of mobilizing ideology, not coercion.

Question: Your Islamic ideology, if I understand it correctly, has as a goal a society without rich or poor, a society without classes in which man will not be satisfied only in a material way, but all his spiritual powers will flourish also. But, even if the distinction between the rich and poor disappears, could another great distinction exist in the society, that between, on one hand, the minority of special and governmental officials who control the state and, through this, are guardians of the entire society and, on the other, the majority of people who carry

out commands from the other? (This, for example, is the case in the Soviet Union and other eastern societies.) What are, in your opinion, the changes which the Islamic Revolution must bring about so as to make this distinction disappear and arrive at a society in which man expands himself?

Answer: The worst class system is that which is based on inequality of knowledge, of information. Let us suppose that we create a society in which prevails equality only as concerns material goods, for example, food, housing, etc. However, can the ignorant ever be in a relation of equality with those who possess knowledge? We will have to destroy censorship in Iran. We will have to make knowledge, information, a prerequisite of equality in making political decisions.

The people will have to be absolutely aware of what is happening in our society. We must go to the people, not sit behind closed doors, to make decisions. The other method is the method of bureaucracy and technocracy. Our own method is the method, the principle, of mobilizing the ideologic factor and this must become a deep awareness in the people. If we sit within our offices and make decisions, the people do not know why we are doing this or that. But if we come to the people, if we speak to the people, if we present the problem to the people, then it is much, much better. This inequality (to which I referred) will be destroyed. For this, we must say to the people that we do not need coercion, we do not need to use coercion. The only thing which we have need of, which we require, is for us to acquire knowledge and, more, to acquire greater and greater information, so that everyone in the society has the information needed to know what is happening in the society. I reject the use of coercion because I know that this will lead us to failure, to destruction. I know that if we use coercion, we will return to the previous regime.

Question: In your book "The Economy of the Divine Unity" you wrote that everyone in the society must do three forms of work: manual labor, administrative work (directing, deciding, governing) and investigative or creative work (researching, innovating, inventing). Please analyze this principle.

Answer: In all the existing social systems, one of these three forms of work acquires a dominant role and prevails. In the system which we call "Tohindi," that is, "divine unity," the work of governing and investigation is the principal work of mankind. And this is the principal role of every man.

What are the characteristics of this system? This system is based on the abolishment of opposing forces. It is based on that which we call man's relationship with God, not with others. In order for one to achieve this, great investigation, great innovation, great creation is demanded. Consequently, ideology plays a very significant role for the creation of the new society.

In short, I would say that the answer you are seeking can also be found in another book of mine called "Governing and Implementation of Governing."

Question: Would you like to send any message to the Greek people?

Answer: The things I said are equivalent to a message. But tell them that this ideologic current which the west has imposed on societies today results in the destruction, the complete destruction, of all of mankind's values. The dimensions of this destruction increase more and more every day.

Mankind, slowly or swiftly, must forget the use of coercion for ever and mobilize ideology, spirituality, in its place.

In my opinion, we must not come to terms with the destructive forces, the imperialist forces of the west or east. But we will have to become aware that the use of coercion is not a solution for us.

In this way, only in this way, will we become aware that the planet Earth is sufficient for mankind, that mankind does not need anything else.

9247

CSO: 4908

FRANJIYAH DISCUSSES POLITICAL TRENDS, HIS, LEBANON'S FUTURE

Nicosia AL-'ASR in Arabic 3 Oct 80 pp 7, 12

[Interview with Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah, Conducted by GAMMA Correspondent Lilian Beret]

[Text] This interview with Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah was conducted by French journalist Lilian Beret for the GAMMA News Agency. Pictures were taken during the interview by the agency's French photographer, Jean Pierre DuVille. The French journalist prefaced her interview with the following remarks.

"Former President Sulayman Franjiyah, who held the post of Lebanese president from 1970 to 1976 and who is now 70 years old, has lived in his summer retreats at Ihdin and in a mountainous area of northern Lebanon controlled by his so-called "al-Mardah" militia ever since the assassination of his son Deputy Tony Franjiyah and more than 30 other supporters on 13 June 1978.

"From time to time there are armed scuffles and clashes between his supporters and the armed men of the Phalangist Party, which is led by Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil. Even though he moved from the capital, Beirut, Sulayman Franjiyah is still the leader of a cohesive group of supporters, and remains the weightiest leader with respect to the Lebanese political situation. He is the main ally of the Syrians, and no government can be formed in Lebanon without his approval. Last August, he used his veto power against the formation of the government of Lebanese technocrats, which would have included a representative of the Phalangist Party. Recently, he has reached a 'gentlemen's agreement' with the progressive forces of the 'National Movement' and with Former Prime Minister Rashid Karami, in order to combat Bashir al-Jumayyil and the forces of the 'Lebanese Front.'" Here are the questions and answers.

[Question] Ever since the end of your term, you have been continually receiving visitors--Lebanese leaders and foreigners--at your homes at Ihdin or Zgharta. Exactly why are they visiting you?

[Answer] According to Lebanese traditions, the home must remain open to everyone. This applies to the president of the republic as well as to any Lebanese citizen. Some of those whom I receive visit me in order to inquire after my health and to get my news, out of friendship. Others visit me to tell me of

their problems, in view of my experience. There are a few groups which visit me to seek information about national problems--as you know, there are many and varied problems in Lebanon--so that they can take some sort of general stand on them.

At the present time, Lebanese politics is divided into several trends having conflicting goals. I personally see three main political trends:

1. a policy which strives to restore our country to its pre-civil war situation; this is the policy which I follow;
2. a policy followed by others to create a religious, racist state; and
3. a group which wants to establish a canton system.

But I personally continue to promote the same slogan: a unified Lebanese state free to determine its own destiny.

Why Doesn't the Army Move In?

[Question] But doesn't the idea of forming a "national unity" government seem to you to be a kind of delusion?

[Answer] The phrase "national unity" certainly does not have the same connotation in Lebanon as it has in Europe. In Europe, there are political parties which want to be represented in the government. If one of these parties is not represented in the government, it moves over to the ranks of the opposition.

In Lebanon, the political parties coexist with groups belonging to several sects --Maronites, Shi'ites and Sunnis. If one wants to speak of a national unity government, these sects must be represented in it. All the governments formed in Lebanon included representatives in the ratio of 50 percent for the Christians and 50 percent for the Moslems. Therefore, instead of forming a government containing ministers representing the combatants, a government must be formed which includes representatives of the sects. The latest formula for forming a government, presented through mediators to those in the government, was as follows: If we take the Republican Palace as the center of gravity, why doesn't it order the Lebanese army, supported by the Arab deterrent forces, to advance one km every day in all directions? In less than 100 days the army would be able to extend the sovereignty and influence of the Lebanese government to all of Lebanon.

On this basis, and if a specific date is set for achieving this goal, I would grant the people in power full freedom to appoint whatever ministers they choose, without my being represented personally.

But if people insist on bringing "technocrats" into the government, these technocrats will continue to clash among themselves inside the palace. Any government which is concerned only with current affairs and red tape matters, without asserting its powers, will serve no purpose no matter what it is.

Relations With Syria

[Question] To be precise, don't the powers of the Lebanese government depend on Syria's good intentions? Didn't the Syrian forces enter Lebanon at your request? How do you justify that now?

[Answer] I would be ready to do it again, without any doubt. The best example that I was right is as follows: when the Arab summit conference met in Riyadh at the beginning of President Ilyas Sarkis' term, the Arab leaders adopted this solution during that conference, and resolved to send Arab forces to restore order and peace to all parts of Lebanon and to separate the combatants.

[Question] But that initiative was presumably temporary. How long will the Syrian forces stay in Lebanon?

[Answer] The Syrian forces today represent the orders of the Lebanese authorities. Every 6 months the Lebanese requests the renewal of these forces' presence. For this reason, anyone who feels that the presence of these forces constitutes a danger to Lebanon's future logically ought to attack the authorities who request the renewal of their term, because the Lebanese government is responsible for this and not the Syrians themselves.

[Question] Your friendship with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is well-known. How did it begin?

[Answer] My friendship began with the family and father of the present Syrian president, and then shifted to Hafiz al-Asad himself when he was a soldier and then president of the republic. This friendship has not changed; it consists of old family ties, not political ones.

[Question] But it is hard for you to not think of political matters. For example, what do you think of the recent Syrian alliance with the Soviet Union? Do you agree with it?

[Answer] To be able to make a correct judgment on the policy of the president of the republic, a person must be informed as to the situation in Syria before President al-Asad's time, especially the economic situation. The changes are obvious and great. As for al-Asad's policy towards foreign states, that is up to him, and it is up to him alone to decide the line he will follow in light of his country's interests. I would like to add that because of the Israeli alliance with the United States, any leader who wants to preserve his country's interests has to tend towards an alliance with the Soviet Union. We have to recognize that the United States considers only Israel in the Middle East.

[Question] Some people have expressed their fear of Syria's intentions towards Lebanon. What do you say?

[Answer] I feel that this is sheer extortion. If Syria really wanted to expand its territory or extend its sovereignty to Lebanon, what is preventing it from doing so now? Part of its army is already in Lebanon, and we have no government. The world has forgotten that our country exists. Syria is present in the heart

of Lebanon and in the midst of Lebanese politics, as proven by the fact that before the president of the republic appoints any ministers, he sends delegates to Damascus to find out the Syrian president's point of view. Under these circumstances, why doesn't our neighbor take advantage of this situation?

I repeat that as long as al-Asad is president of Syria, he will desire nothing but Lebanon's well-being. Anything else is sheer extortion and a threat to exploit it by some Lebanese groups outside of Lebanon.

The End of Israel!

[Question] There is another current issue that concerns Lebanon for better or worse, and that is the unification of Jerusalem, after the Knesset's July voting to resolve this issue. What is your opinion?

[Answer] The unification and Judaization of Jerusalem is the most serious issue with respect to the whole world, not just Lebanon or Moslems or Christians. If the Christian world does not act against this decision, I am convinced that this will mean the end of everything for the Christian religion. This is because after the unification of Jerusalem, how could those who do not believe in Christianity respect what it represents?

My first reaction upon hearing of the Knesset decision was, "This decision is the beginning of the end for Israel." Let us look at the past. What do we see? That 1,000 years ago all the European states united to launch a crusaders' war to conquer Jerusalem. Three hundred years later, they were expelled from it. History always repeats itself, but nowadays it won't take 300 years to do so--it will repeat itself as soon as the Arabs reach an understanding among themselves. If this policy continues, Israel will fall soon.

[Question] The Palestinian cause is only one step removed from Israel. Do you believe that the Palestinian cause will be settled some day?

[Answer] That will be no surprise to me. In any case, I feel that Israel cannot remain if it continues its present policy. I hope that the Palestinian issue will be solved according to Resolution 242, which calls for restoring the situation to its pre-June 1967 war situation.

[Question] What conditions are necessary for achieving that?

[Answer] The only thing which the solution requires is an American president with a humane conscience who can implement such a solution.

With Arafat? No!

[Question] We know that you are always receiving Palestinian delegations. Does this mean that you have secret relations with Yasir 'Arafat? If there are such relations, what is their purpose?

[Answer] There most certainly aren't any secret relations. In fact, Yasir 'Arafat has unfortunately never understood us, and is not interested in establishing relations with the Lebanese authorities in general. Everything which has been said is erroneous, and I am wondering when we can say "enough!"

But I certainly do receive Palestinians in northern Lebanon from the Tripoli region, whether at Ihdin or at Zgharta.

The purpose of such meetings is extremely clear--to establish peace and mutual understanding in the north. So far these visits have had positive results.

[Question] Are you optimistic about the next few months?

[Answer] Relatively speaking, especially after 2 years.

[Question] Why 2 years?

[Answer] Because President Sarkis' term will end after 2 years, unless he heeds the citizens' call and resigns before that time.

A State Without Movement

[Question] What is your basic opposition to President Sarkis?

[Answer] His inactivity. It is extremely serious, especially under our country's present circumstances, that matters are proceeding as they are without his reacting to them forcefully. We have a republican president who depends on the days. Many people, including ourselves, feel that we were mistaken about his abilities. Nevertheless, he has the means of doing something. The Arab and western worlds are prepared to back and support him. Let me give a single proof, one which can be revealed. Compare the situation and conduct of the Italian president with that of the Lebanese president. During a period of 2 days, there were disasters in both countries: an attack in Bologna (Italy) and the 7 July incidents in Lebanon. The attack in Bologna resulted in the deaths of more than 80 persons, and in Lebanon, if I can trust Danny Sham'un, who came here to meet me, the 7 July incidents resulted in the death of 350 persons. In Italy, the 85-year old president, who has no real powers in his country, felt it was his duty to attend the victims' funerals.

[Question] At that time, the internal divisions of every camp were aroused. Do you believe that what some people call the "mini-war" between the al-Jumayyil and the Franjiyah families will find a truce or solution some day?

[Answer] I don't see how. In any case, a complete solution to the Lebanese crisis could be achieved through a government which wanted to control every part of Lebanon, except for the Lebanese south, which is outside our control.

As for forgiving them for killing my son Tony, without a trial this will never be. But after the trial, why not?

[Question] Mr President, you have withdrawn to what many people describe as the "fortress," and you are tied down night and day by your armed forces, the Mardah. Don't you feel sometimes that you are a prisoner, albeit a voluntary one?

[Answer] On some days I can imagine myself a prisoner, although a voluntary one in any case. Besides that, one of my personality traits is that even when I was president of the republic, I saved time for myself to spend with my family and my private affairs. How can you think that I am a prisoner in what you describe as a "fortress?" Look around you. The people living in this area have maintained their traditions. During the summer they go to Zgharta or Ihdin where the weather is cooler. I don't believe that they are unhappy. Then too, you must not forget that I don't leave the region very much, for I am getting too old for that.

[Question] What constitutes the Franjiyah entourage now, on the military and popular levels?

[Answer] I cannot give exact figures, but in any case that is not up to me to comment on. On the personal level, the Franjiyah supporters are in the north, and go no farther than that. As for the political level, the Franjiyah supporters are something else. We have friends and persons supporting us throughout Lebanon, even in Beirut. But I will not say, as some people are saying, that 90 percent of the inhabitants of Lebanon are loyal to me.

I Could Succeed Sarkis

[Question] Do you believe that you still have a political future?

[Answer] If I have spoken freely and openly declared some facts perhaps more than others, that is precisely because I feel that I could succeed Sarkis.

[Question] Perhaps. In any case, no government can be formed without your approval. As we know, there has been much discussion of deputizing your son Robert. In your religion, is your son the one people listen to and interview? Is this the situation you want?

[Answer] My son Robert will have the same destiny as I have had. In 1957, I was concerned with local political matters in the village and the region, while my brother, Hamid Franjiyah, was concerned with general political matters. Unfortunately, my brother was stricken with an illness which prevented him from pursuing his activities and his way of life. It is a tradition in our family: the older one is concerned with politics and the younger one does what he wants.

After the disaster which happened to Tony, Robert was forced to assume responsibilities which he had not wanted in the first place. He is performing them well, and everyone trusts him totally.

[Question] Some people feel that this tradition and family or partisan spirit shows vestiges of feudalism.

[Answer] All I can say is that this region has managed to preserve the human element, which is scarce in other areas. We depend on it very much, and we know everyone by their first names only. For this reason, our home is open to everyone every day. Whenever anyone has a problem or has been treated unjustly, he comes to us so we can act as a judge. He is always satisfied with our decision and verdict. I feel that this is true socialism, and I am proud to say that it began here. Whenever any one of us is confronted with an obstacle, the whole village helps him, and the neighbors are ready to fix coffee and food.

France's Policy?

[Question] What do you think of France's foreign policy vis-a-vis the Middle East and Lebanon?

[Answer] I have nothing to say about French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, but during the past few months I have come to feel that the French president was adopting a strong, extremely frank stand with respect to the Arab cause, even though it doesn't always have enough pressure, and that these stands reflect the president's innate concern for justice.

[Question] Nevertheless, many observers and Lebanese reproach France for being somewhat lacking in concern for the Lebanese crisis.

[Answer] I have often complained about France's unconcern for what is going on in Lebanon, at least the unconcern of the country's leaders. But we have always been able to say that we are not living in the eighteenth or nineteenth century, and that every state has to concern itself with its own problems. However, I believe that the French people's friendship for Lebanon will never dwindle, as proven by a simple but touching story. I have a Lebanese friend who hires a taxi when he arrives in Paris to go around the French capital. When the driver learned his nationality, he refused to charge him any fare, saying, "You live in a war-torn country, and you need sympathy more than I do."

The European Initiative

[Question] Does it seem to you that the Middle East visit by Common Market Representative Gaston Thorn was of any use?

[Answer] I doubt it. Many leaders and representatives from the United States and Europe have made similar fact-finding trips before now, including the Vatican's foreign minister, but these officials don't know all of the many details of the Lebanese issue, and therefore their role is extremely limited.

8559

CSO: 4802

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES SAHARAN QUESTION IN FRANCE

LD301319 Rabat MAP in English 1219 GMT 30 Oct 80

[Text] Paris, 30 Oct (MAP)--Mr M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, was received here Wednesday afternoon by President Valery Giscard d'Estaing of France to whom he conveyed a message from King Hassan II of Morocco.

At the end of this audience, Mr Boucetta told newsmen that the message was "a message of friendship." Then he gave explanations of his mission in France and made comments on the latest developments of the Moroccan cause.

The minister mainly said "I am here to lead the Moroccan delegations at the works of the great Moroccan-French joint commission devoted to the study of the whole relation between our two countries, and I have conveyed a royal message of friendship to the French president which expressed our will to maintain the excellence of these relations and develop them."

The Moroccan minister went on saying "Of course we spoke of problems of common interest and the evolution of the situation in North Africa."

Asked whether the Moroccan Sahara question was dealt with during the meeting, Mr Boucetta said "We always tackle the situation in North Africa, because we are all concerned. It concerns Morocco in particular and it concerns its friends who would like to see peace, and stability re-established in the area."

When asked about the evolution of the situation in the Moroccan Sahara he said that it was progressing on the military plan, because Morocco totally controls the territory, and on the diplomatic plan, because attempts are being carried on at the African level, by the recommendations of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and by the special committee which is entrusted with this affair.

The minister finally replied to a journalists' remark related to a better disposition of Algeria vis-a-vis Morocco since the coming to power of President Chadli Bendjedid saying "What we presently witness is that attacks are launched not against the Saharan provinces but against provinces to the north of the Sahara."

The minister further underlined, "We cannot say there is a radical change at present."

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JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON BOUCETTA VISIT

LD032337 Rabat MAP in English 1216 GMT 3 Nov 80

[Text] Paris, 3 Nov (MAP)--The workers of the third Moroccan-French intergovernmental commission ended here Friday under the chairmanship of Mr M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, and Mr Jean Francois Poncet, his French counterpart, in an atmosphere of confidence and serenity.

At the end of these works, a joint communique was published in which it is first recalled that the Moroccan-French permanent intergovernmental commission which met here on 30-31 October 1980, was created by an agreement concluded here on 2 July 1971 between Morocco and France.

During the two day meeting, Mr Boucetta was received by French President Mr Valery Giscard d'Estaing, as well as by French premier, Mr Raymond Barre.

Mr Boucetta and his French counterpart made a tour d'horizon of problems of international politics.

The two men confirmed the attachment of their countries to the cause of peace and security and to the respect of the independence and territorial integrity of states.

They expressed concern over the prolongation of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict and their support to attempts to put an end to it through peaceful means.

They exchanged viewpoints on the evolution of the Middle East conflict and reaffirmed that only a global settlement taking into account the Palestinians' rights is susceptible of securing a just and lasting peace in the region.

They also reaffirmed their governments' condemnation and the international condemnation of the Israeli measures aimed at modifying the statute [as received] of the city of Al-Quds, and the necessity for Europe to carry on its action in this line.

The ministers expressed their satisfaction at the next resuming of the Euro-Arab dialogue and emphasized the interest the two countries grant the tripartite dialogue aimed at a closer cooperation between Europe, the Arab world and Africa.

Mr Boucetta and Mr Francois Poncet discussed the situation in Africa and expressed concern over the tension currently prevailing in Africa. Then they examined with particular attention questions raised by the relations existing between Morocco and the European Economic Community.

The two ministers expressed satisfaction at the positive evolution of bilateral relations in various fields, first in technical and cultural cooperation where they decided to step up efforts in education and the training of cadres, then in the economic field where several questions were examined and means to encourage the current tendency aimed at reestablishing balance in trade exchanges were sought. Questions related to the Moroccan community in France were also examined and consultations in this regard will be carried on.

The two ministers finally expressed satisfaction at the positive results of the works of the commission and Mr Boucetta warmly thanked the French minister for the welcome the Moroccan delegation was met with and invited Mr Francois Poncet to visit Morocco. It is to be recalled that Mr Boucetta was received here Friday by the French president to whom he conveyed a message from King Hassan II of Morocco, and Friday with Mr Barre, French premier, who accepted an invitation from his Moroccan counterpart Mr Maata Bouabid to visit Morocco next January.

CSO: 4420

MAURITANIAN INTERVENTION IN WESTERN SAHARA EXAMINED

Rabat L'OPINION in French 27 Sep 80 p 1

[Editorial by Mohamed Tamri: "The Imponderables"]

[Text] Upon receiving Mauritania's new ambassador to Paris, the French president reaffirmed that his country "can only approve a policy of authentic neutrality with regard to the conflict now going on" in the Sahara.

Emphasizing that the neutrality proclaimed in Nouakchott must be authentic, President Giscard d'Estaing does not for a moment doubt the direct involvement of Mauritania in a conflict raging on its borders, within which the mercenaries find bases and seek refuge, mercenaries whose ranks are constantly supplied with Mauritanian citizens. As King Hassan II said at his latest press conference, the forces which Morocco finds in the field are 2 to 5 percent Saharan, about 25 percent Malian and Niger and the rest Mauritaniens.

The Mauritanian coast is also placed at the disposal of these same mercenaries and they are the authors of all the attacks recently made on Spanish, South Korean and Portuguese fishing boats.

This demonstrates to what extent a country that was long Morocco's ally is now committed to its detractors. One can also see the great difference between the proclamations of faith of the Mauritanian leaders and their actions. That is what emerges from the statement of the French president when he emphasizes that the proclaimed neutrality must be authentic.

The French policy on Mauritania, taking its interests into account, has always been to use it as a buffer between Senegal in particular and the Arab-Muslim world. However, since the overthrow of President Ould Daddah, the Mauritanian governments that have come after him, especially that of Ould Haïdallah, by virtue of their incoherence and the contradictions characterizing their positions and their overall concept of regional balance, distort the scenario and introduce so many imponderables that the balance is increasingly threatened.

In his statement before the Mauritanian ambassador, Giscard d'Estaing added that his wish was to "see an overall settlement to the painful problem that concerns a region in which France has only friends."

The wish of the French president joins the concerns of Morocco, whose most fervent desire is to see peace return to our region and which is doing its utmost to bring it about. But in order for this wish to come true, it must be shared by the other parties in the conflict, which does not appear to be the case at the present time for the Mauritanian leaders, whose policy can only add fuel to the fire in short-range terms.

As King Hassan II emphasizes: "If Mauritania is not careful, as a nation and as a government, it will have to pay the price for this inevitable peace. It will not be Morocco that will do so."

The warning is clear: "If Mauritania is not careful, if the Mauritanian authorities do not check the freedom they are giving their nationals to become involved in an adventure against a friendly, neighboring country, one day there will inevitably be peace" and Mauritania will suffer the consequences."

11,464

CSO: 4400

BRIEFS

PROTEST OVER MOROCCO VISIT--The Queen's visit to Morocco has elicited a protest from the Sahara Action Committee based in London. At a news conference at the Africa Centre in London the Committee, a representative of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic republic, Kamal Lajer, and a Labor member of Parliament, Mr Christopher Price, all registered their disquiet at the implications of the Queen's visit to Morocco and the possibility that it might be used by Moroccan propaganda. The protest, which was signed by several British parliamentarians, noted that "in view of Britain's claim that it is neutral in the conflict, a royal visit to Morocco is surely inadvisable." The committee called on the British government to review its policy adding that "if it wishes to be even-handed it should maintain relations with both parties to the conflict--Morocco and the Polisario Front." Letters have already been written to the Foreign Office concerning the visit. The reply said, in effect, that the visit bore no relation to Morocco's activities in Western Sahara. Buckingham Palace simply referred the committee to its correspondence with the Foreign Office and added that the Queen's visits are arranged on the advice of her ministers. The one thing which saves the Moroccan visit from any embarrassing political consequences is the continuing ignorance of the British public of the conflict in Western Sahara. Mr Price, who made no pretense to being an expert on the Western Sahara, also voiced concern on the possibility of British arms sales to Morocco, now that the Iranian market, on which the British arms industry had come to depend, has closed. Kamal Lajer, the representative of the SADR, confined direct comment on the royal visit to Morocco by observing that the "United Kingdom gained an image de marque in Zimbabwe. If the Queen is to visit Morocco, you can easily see, it will be harmful to that image de marque." [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English 27 Oct 80 pp 2110-2111]

FORCES FOIL MERCENARY ATTACK--Rabat, 25 Oct (MAP)--The Royal Moroccan Armed Forces on 22 October foiled a planned mercenary attack south of Ras El Khannfra. The Royal Moroccan Air Force on a reconnaissance flight spotted enemy grouping estimated at several battalions and they immediately intervened to destroy the mercenary bands. They inflicted on them heavy losses in men and equipment. The intervention of the Royal Moroccan Air Force continued from 1000 to 1400. At 1500 the remnants of the mercenaries tried to regroup to mount a suicide action but the planes of the Royal Moroccan Air Force supported by the artillery engaged them, foiled their plan, and made them retreat in defeat. The battles have resulted in the martyrdom of 14 and wounding of 65 of our men. The losses among the mercenary ranks were 150 killed and 60 enemy vehicles destroyed. [Text] [LD252010 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Oct 80]

FORCES CONTINUE MOPPING-UP--The Moroccan Royal Forces continue their mopping-up operations in the south. On Sunday 26 October 1980 they surprised a column of mercenaries west of (El-Haouza) consisting of several units carried by more than 300 vehicles. The gangs of mercenaries tried in vain to confront the advance of our royal forces, whose reply was quick and effective. The land forces, supported by the Royal Air Force, put a complete stop to the advance of the mercenaries, who were forced to flee to the east and southeast. The Royal Armed Force achieved their goals in full and carried out the plan which had been drawn up for them. The battle lasted from 1300 to 1700. The Moroccan side lost 5 martyrs and 30 wounded. The mercenaries left on the battlefield 250 dead and wounded, and 80 vehicles--7 useable and the rest completely destroyed. [Text] [LD272110 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Oct 80]

GEOLOGY, ENERGY AGREEMENTS--5 Oct (MAP)--Early Friday evening, Moussa Saadi, minister of energy and mining research, arrived at the Mohammed V Airport following a short visit to Guinea and Senegal, in the course of which he met with Guinean and Senegalese colleagues to discuss cooperation in the areas of energy and mining. Minister Saadi was also received by President Ahmed Sekou Toure during his visit to Conakry and President Leopold Sedar Senghor during his stay in Senegal. Reporting on his trip to the two countries, the minister of energy and mining said that he had made the visit at the head of a large delegation for the purpose of improving Morocco's cooperation with Guinea and Senegal in the field of mining and energy. Referring to his visit to Guinea, Saadi said that the talks with his Guinean colleague Ismael Toure dealt with the different aspects of cooperation in mining, geology and energy. Saadi stated that agreements will be signed in this field between Morocco and Guinea as soon as the Moroccan experts who remained there have drafted the accords, probably at the time of Guinean Minister of Mining Ismael Toure's next visit to Morocco. Saadi said he was grateful for having been received by Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of the Republic of Guinea, to whom he extended the best wishes of the king on the occasion of the 23d anniversary of Guinea's independence. Speaking of his visit to Senegal, Saadi announced that his talks with Senegalese authorities were aimed at expanding cooperation in energy and mining, particularly through the conclusion of agreements between Morocco and Senegal in these fields. The minister expressed his satisfaction with the meeting with President Senghor, to whom he transmitted the fraternal greetings of King Hassan II. The minister of energy and mining was greeted upon his arrival by Hadj Mohamed Okacha, representing the governor in the prefecture of Casablanca, and by several high officials from his ministry. [Text] [Casablanca MAROC SOIR in French 6 Oct 80 p 2] 11,464

CSO: 4400

PROGRESS IN AGRICULTURE NOTED

Jiddah ARAB NEWS in English 27 Oct 80 p 3

[Article by Bill Wang: "Farmers Succeed in Growing New Red Rice Variety"]

[Text]

HOFUF, Oct. 26 (CNA) — Saudi farmers in Al-Hasa, the Kingdom's biggest oasis near the Arabian Gulf, have been successful in growing a new red rice variety developed by a Chinese agricultural mission to improve rice productivity in the region.

About 30 local farmers have been harvesting the rice they planted in May with the assistance of the Chinese mission. At that time the mission began an extension program to introduce to farmers the new variety, a hybrid between the local red rice variety of Hassawi and a dwarf, high-yield white variety produced in the Republic of China, Ai Chiao Chein.

On the average, the farmers have produced seven tons of rice per hectare of land, nearly two-and-a-half times as much as the local variety can yield from a plot of the same size. But what is more significant is that the new variety takes only four months to mature while the local variety will not be ready for harvest until six months after the planting.

Prof. Lin Cheng-i, leader of the mission, points out that the new variety has a strong reasoning ability. Therefore, after the first cutting, shoots will come out of the stems, and a second harvest can be expected in about another 80 days without the need for a new planting.

Because of the significantly reduced growth duration, Lin says, even after the second harvest, there will still be time for another crop of wheat or vegetable, thus achieving a full utilization of the land. In addition, there are other superior characteristics about the new variety. For example, it is considerably more resistant to salt than the local variety and can thrive on drainage water, which generally has a salt content nearly 50 per cent more than ordinary irrigation water in the region.

This has been demonstrated by a local

farmer, Khalid bin Shaio Al-Nuwaier. Under the cooperation of Chinese experts, Nuwaier had grown the new variety on a plot irrigated by drainage water, and the result was highly satisfactory. Even though Al-Hasa boasts of the best and most extensive irrigation system in the Kingdom there is still a lot of land out of its reach, and with the introduction of the new variety, the acreage of rice fields can be expected to increase considerably.

Of course, the Chinese mission's success didn't come overnight. In fact, it has been operating in Al-Hasa for more than a decade, and the amount of effort the mission has put in can probably never be matched by any other Chinese agricultural mission abroad.

This is due to the fact that the people in Al-Hasa have a special preference for red rice. The Republic of China has over the years produced many high-yield rice varieties, but none of them are of red variety. As a result, the mission has had to work from scratch and to breed an entirely new variety to satisfy the local people. Before the successful breeding of the current new variety, a number of other varieties had been produced by the mission. But they were far from satisfactory, and much effort had been exerted to modify their undesirable characteristics.

In 1977, immediately after his appointment to the current post, Prof. Lin decided to give up all the previously produced varieties and to start the work all over again.

This time he chose Ai Chiao Chein for the breeding of a new variety because the dwarf variety is early to mature, easy to grow and has a high yielding ability. From the offsprings of hybridization between Ai Chiao Chein and Hassawi, Lin picked out the new variety, which retains almost all the desirable characteristics of both varieties.

Last year, the mission invited farmers to its experimental farms and formally announced

the successful development of the new rice. After enough seeds were produced, extension work was started earlier this year.

At first, most farmers were hesitant, and only some 30 of them would want to give the new variety a try. But after these farmers' resounding success, it has become the most sought-after rice variety in the region. Apart from its success in rice, the mission has also brought about a monumental change in the production of vegetables and melons in Al-Hassa.

The cantaloupe and watermelon introduced to the region by the Chinese mission have enriched King Khaled's table. In fact, the King likes the fruits so much that he has asked the mission to grow some of the melons in the garden of his summer palace in Taif.

In the past, farmers had never succeeded in growing watermelon in Al-Hassa because the time suitable for growing the melon here is too short. The only time suitable is the period between March and May. Before March it is too cold, and after May it is too hot.

To prolong the cultivable period, the mission introduced the use of PE covering to protect the plant from damage caused by low temperatures. As a result, the seeds can be planted in February, and the melon grows very well in the region.

The mission has applied the same method to the production of cucumber. To everyone's surprise, the yield of one variety has doubled while that of another has quadrupled.

Some of the vegetables the mission has introduced to the region have brought fortune to local farmers. Among them is Chinese cabbage. When the vegetable was first introduced, the local people were not too crazy about it because they thought it was too coarse to be served as salad.

But Chinese cabbage is extremely popular with the Chinese and Koreans working in the area, and a scramble for the vegetable has steadily driven its price up. Currently, a Chinese cabbage is sold for SR15. The profit margin can be astonishing since farmers can produce 30,000 cabbages from a hectare of land within a period of two months.

After three years of working here, Prof. Lin has discovered that there are many favorable factors for agricultural development in the Kingdom. For example, crops generally grow better here because they get sufficient sunlight. In addition, crops here are rarely attacked by disease since germs are not so active in a place with such a long and hot summer.

He believes the Kingdom will be able to achieve some measure of self-sufficiency in agriculture as long as farmers are equipped with advanced farming techniques and motivated by enough incentives.

BRIEFS

OILFIELD DEVELOPMENTS--More than 70 technical papers covering the most important developments in Saudi and Gulf oilfields are to be presented in Bahrain at a major conference in March, according Richard Savage of Bahrain's Exhibition Center. The specialist gathering, which is aimed at the region's top oil technologists, is organized by the Society of Petroleum Engineers. It will be held from March 9 through 12, 1981, at the Exhibition Center Bahrain, alongside the second Middle East Oil Show. The program committee is chaired by Saudi Arabia's Deputy Minister of Petroleum Ahmed Zamel. He announced that more than 120 papers had been presented for consideration during two days of extensive discussions. After stressing the high technical quality of the papers presented, Zamel said, "I am working with a committee of high caliber experts in the oil industry to ensure good standards of technical presentations. "This important event will provide an opportunity for engineers, scientists, managers and technicians to exchange views and ideas on important issues that are encountered specifically in the Gulf area," he added. Before leaving Bahrain, the fifteen-man selection committee of international experts inspected the new conference facilities nearing completion at November's building, construction and solar technology show, Arab-build '80. [Text] [Jiddah ARAB NEWS in English 25 Oct 80 p 2]

CSO: 4820

SYRIA LOOKS FOR NEW, CHEAPER WAYS TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 25 Aug 80 pp 4, 11

[Article: "Observations on the Situation and Future of Electricity in Our Country: The 'Adhra Electric Generation Station Uses Solar Energy; The Local Beginnings of Use of an Inexhaustible Energy Source"]

[Text] It is anticipated that our country's consumption of electricity in the coming 5 years will double. This increase means that the rate of dependence on oil derivatives for electric generation will also increase. This year it is estimated that we consume 4 billion kilowatt hours. The hydroelectric power plant on the Euphrates River will ensure us of 2.8 billion kilowatt hours, i.e. roughly 70 percent of our consumption of electricity while the remaining water-power stations--Suq Wadi Barada in Damascus, al-Rustam, and Muhradah stations--will ensure us another 10 percent. Thus the total share of waterpower used in electricity generation in our country will be in the vicinity of 80 percent of the total electric power we produce.

However, electricity consumption is rapidly increasing in our country. It even surpasses the theme which the party has maintained: 'Electricity in the villages every day', since just in the first trimester of this year 152 villages had electricity installed. Add to this the additional housing units, factories, and new establishments all demanding increased electric consumption.

Engineer Muhammad al-Shaqfah, technical consultant to the minister of electricity informed us that our country's consumption in 1985 will be 8 billion kilowatt hours, and in his estimation the median amount that water-generated power can give will represent only about 30 percent of the total electric power generated in Syria in 1985. It is obvious that water-generated power contributes a fixed amount whereas consumption is a rising variable. According to his estimates, Syria will need 1.6 million tons of fuel oil in 1985 to ensure the total demand for electricity that year. It is axiomatic that these figures will increase exponentially in the years that follow 1985. Under the circumstances of rising oil prices, the search for a substitute for electric generation appears urgent. The attempt must be made to moderate our consumption of electricity.

In this context, Mr al-Shaqfah is pointing out our country's poverty in water power and that it is imperative for us to look for two sources for electric power generation: reliance on nuclear energy and second, solar energy.

We have observed or read of projects in the Ministry of Electricity in our country that there is a foreign company that has asked permission to conduct a study of the subject of utilizing water power along the coastal regions to generate electricity. There's another company that is studying the use of [oil] shale also which is plentiful in Syria. Proposals have been gradually completed in order to start economic and technical studies about the possibility of utilizing nuclear power for electric power generation in Syria. Likewise an experimental station for generating electricity from solar energy and from wind has been set up in 'Adhra.

In the opinion of the technical consultant of the minister the solar solution is the most preferable since all the other power sources will be exhausted in the world whereas solar power is inexhaustible. However, electric generation by means of the sun still remains extremely complicated. The initial costs of a kilowatt hour comes to 200,000 lira, relying on the costs of the experimental station at 'Adhra. Whereas the initial cost of a kilowatt hour in steam driven stations comes to 2,000 lira and using nuclear reactor generators, 10,000 lira. In his estimation the interval separating the serious decision to build a nuclear reactor to generate electricity and the time when this experimental station can profitably be used must be only 10 years, even though some studies indicate that this hiatus will be 20 years.

Perhaps the figures that we've been given present us with a clear picture of a country steadily advancing, for it is well known that electricity is civilization, and that the more consumption of electricity increases, the more work and comfort there is to raise people's hopes. However this is not inconsistent with runaway increases in the cost of obtaining electricity. Initially, we must look for additional water power which is considered one of the cheapest sources of electricity. The positive picture referred to above must become even more profound in the sense that we will surely consume more electricity. This will compel us to search for alternative sources to oil because of the crisis and the continuous rise in prices this commodity displays. Under the present circumstances there is no alternative to the nuclear solution for electricity except that this does not prevent us from utilizing solar power for space and water heating. It is well known that the apparatus which can achieve this power transfer is cheap and abundant. It would increase electricity so that we can use it in place of oil derivatives. It is axiomatic that it will not be long before the world solves the present difficulties facing the transfer of solar energy into electricity at reasonable costs.

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CSO: 4802

TWO PROVINCES START ACTIVE ROAD BUILDING PROGRAMS

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 20 Aug 80 p 4

[Article from the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY: "A Start in Work on the Ring-Road for Homs. Work on More than 100 Road Projects in the Two Provinces of Tartus and Suwayda"]

[Text]—General Fu'ad 'Absi, governor of Homs, asked the Syrian Road Company to begin maintenance and improvement work on the axis road of Homs which stretches from the oil refinery to the fork to the Palmyra road. The costs of this road will come to 8 million lira. In addition the Homs ring-road project planned to run from the end of the Damascus highway to the Tripoli road will be completed and will cost about 80 million lira.

In Tartus the director of communications confirmed that more than 100 principal and secondary road projects have been entrusted to the directorate of communications for their completion this year in order to improve and enhance the highway system and to facilitate the movement of public transport to and from the city centers, neighborhoods and outlying areas.

These projects will cost about 30 million lira.

The director of communications praised comrade Danhu Da'wud, governor of Tartus, for the support and measures that he took and which gave the directorate the opportunities to accomplish these projects on schedule.

He also pointed out in his statement to correspondents of the ARAB NEWS AGENCY that the completion of one of ten projects in the countryside had come to a cost of 3 million lira.

He said that the longest network of roads in the province was the mountain roads and that they required special work and bridges, since they are exposed to the destructive processes of heavy rains which don't allow the directorate's workshops with their meagre resources to undertake as promptly as possible the preventive maintenance and repairs measures that are needed in response to these processes of nature.

He added that the directorate needed to improve its important job with more modern equipment and by continuously training the skilled workers needed to maintain the roads.

He pointed out that the Syrian Roads Company is now entrusted with the work of widening, expanding, and upgrading the Tartus-Safita and the Tartus-Duraykish roads.

During the next five-year plan work on the Tartus-Shaykh Badr, Baniyas-Qadmus, and Shaykh Badr-Duraykish roads will be finished.

He mentioned at the end of his announcement that the directorate in cooperation with the party branch office and the local branch of the Revolution Youth Union and the executive office of the local administration has taken possession of a number of secondary roads necessary for the peasant populace by means of using the youth production and training camps.

Likewise, the communications directorate in Suwayda has undertaken eleven road projects within the province.

The sum of 6 million lira has been appropriated for this work. These projects will be completed during the current year. They are included in the directorate plan of maintaining the road network in the province.

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CSO: 4802

BRIEFS

ALEPPO'S NEW CEMENT FACTORY--The military housing authority has decided on setting up a cement factory in Aleppo with a daily production capacity of 1,200 tons of cement. This is in order to ensure enough cement for its development projects. An official in the authority indicated that the total cost of setting up this project shall reach 150 million lira and he expects it will be completed and begin production at the beginning of 1982. In other news the first experimental phase of the production program of the Arab Cement Company began recently with a capacity of 3,000 tons of cement daily. This is in preparation for shifting the plant to an actually profitable level at the beginning of next year. It should be mentioned that the total cost of the project could approach in the environs of 940 million lira considering the present completion costs of the plant. [Text] [Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 19 Aug 80 p 4] 9587

THE APPROPRIATIONS BUDGET'S PROJECTS--The level of expenditures of projects assigned in the separate budget for 1980 was exceptional and came to 25 million Syrian lira. A member of the executive committee of the provincial assembly announced this yesterday and added that five projects of the original 16 projects slated in the investment budget for 1980 had been completed. Their costs have reached 21.15 million lira. The necessary preliminary studies for the remaining projects are now being finished so that they can be contracted. This executive committee member explained that the completion rate of the maintenance plans was 60 percent since an appropriation of the sum of 6 million lira for these projects coming out of this year's budget was made. The military housing authority will shortly carry out the execution of the two projects in the administration building of the Water and Public Facilities authority at a total cost of 37 million lira. A responsible source in the provincial branch office of the housing authority announced this. He added that the authority expects to complete the two projects by the end of 1982. Recently an agreement was concluded between the Roadco Company and the city of Aleppo for the building and paving of various streets in the city's neighborhoods at a total cost of 4 million Syrian lira. The company has already begun work according to the contracted plan and it is expected that it will complete work on this at the end of the current year. [Text] [Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 17 Aug 80 p 4] 9587

CSO: 4802

WESTERN SAHARA

BRIEFS

REPORTED ATTACK AGAINST MOROCCO--The Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Information Ministry has published a military communique on a new attack waged on 26 October by fighters of the Saharan People's Liberation Army against the aggressive Royalist Forces at Ra's el Khannfra, southern Morocco. The Moroccan losses were 175 killed and a similar number wounded. In addition 51 diverse vehicles were destroyed, including South African armored vehicles. [Excerpt] [LD300057 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Oct 80]

CSO: 4402

LEADER DISCUSSES POLITICAL, ECONOMIC POLICIES

San'a' AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Oct 80 p 2

/Article: "Text of the President and Commander's Responses to Press Questions Presented by Qatar Paper AL-RAYAH AL-QATARIYAH"/

/Text/ Question: Mr president, what is the 19th year of the September revolution bringing to the people of Yemen? What about the Committees of National Dialogue and Correction? Was it necessary to transfer such important matters to the activities of committees, causing us to fear bureaucratic procrastination and the dominance of the official character over the popular one?

Answer: There is no doubt that the 19th year of the revolution will witness a great evolution in the new life of Yemen, because it represents a continuation of the serious national revolutionary course which we have striven to assert through deed and practice in all areas. There is no doubt that it will witness the establishment of a revolutionary council elected publicly, freely and directly by all members of the people through the system set forth by the General Election Law we recently issued, which will win a victory for the course of the revolution in the process of reaffirming democracy and the practice of democracy. It will also witness the completion of the implementation of all comprehensive 5-year economic and social development plan projects and serious preparations for the second 5-year plan. However, the most important thing we aspire to achieve and realize in the 19th year of the revolution is the National Charter, since that is one of the most important vital pressing demands which will guarantee that some of the political ailments created by the illusion of a political vacuum, illegitimate personal aspirations and the impetuous leap into reality and vital truths are remedied.

Naturally, in order to achieve an important objective, it is necessary that people be assigned to carry it out--be that one person or more. Several tasks and activities in particular can only be carried out by a chosen group, and here is where the designation of the committees comes. There is no harm in that, as long as the committee performs its work and is followed up on by the leadership and the entity responsible for performing the job, since, if it fails, it will be dissolved and another committee will be formed which will be able to perform the work and the tasks assigned to it. Therefore there will be no fear for the activity of the committees as long as there are people constantly to follow up on their activities, which is what we are doing.

Question: Have the discussions between the two halves of Yemen arrived at a crystallization of the notion of union? Union is a legitimate right, but has it acquired an identity? Does the president feel that there are some Arab or foreign forces which might oppose the establishment of a strong state in the south of the Arabian Peninsula, in a sensitive location?

Answer: Our discussions with our brothers in the southern half of the nation are in order to reattain the enduring unity of Yemen. We are acting to embody a clear, specific notion of the nature and character of the union state through the bases and principles contained in the two Cairo Agreements, the Tripoli, Kuwait and San'a' statements, and other subsequent statements. The tasks assigned to various unity committees have been aimed at discussing this issue and reaching final agreement on it. There is no doubt that the committees have covered great and significant strides in this regard. Thanks to that, we recently took a number of important executive steps which will have the effect of bringing the day of union close, among them establishment of joint tourist, cultural, and commercial companies and organizations, unification of postal and communications systems, and so forth.

This confirms that we are proceeding along the proper path to reattain unity, before which no obstacle or impediment of any kind can stand since it is the destiny of the Yemeni people and its inevitable, ineluctable future. We do not feel that there are Arab forces opposed to the establishment of Yemeni unity--rather, everyone is encouraging its consummation, and the same is the situation with respect to friendly countries. There is no doubt that there are enemies of Yemeni unity, but they are in reality the enemies of the Arab nation and the enemies of its solidarity and unity, primarily Israel and the forces of international Zionism.

Question: Once again, the winds of danger have started to blow from the African Horn, now that Somalia has offered military facilities to America. What about Yemen, on the shores facing Somalia? What is the effect of that on the unity talks between the two halves of Yemen?

Answer: Any foreign military presence in the region will constitute a blatant threat and extreme danger to the peace, security and stability of the region. Therefore we are acting against all foreign military presence in the region, because that will become a direct cause for drawing the region to the brink of international struggles and a race for foreign dominance and influence, bringing direct damage on all the countries in it. We are not satisfied with this and others are not either. We are appealing to everyone to coordinate and cooperate in repelling it and overcoming it.

There is no doubt that such things as this can have no effect on the course of the program of dialogue underway between the two halves of the nation for the sake of the reattainment of unity.

Question: News has proliferated about Yemen's readiness to join the Perseverance and Steadfastness Front. To what extent is that correct, and what strategic and political dimension will Yemen add by joining it?

Answer: We are in favor of every Arab position which will have the effect of strengthening Arab forces and combining them and their resources in one entity

which will be better able to confront the Israeli and Zionist enemy and enter into a decisive national struggle with him. This naturally does not mean, and does not commit us to join a specific bloc on the Arab stage, especially since Arab solidarity requires that we all go beyond blocs toward a single specific position uniting Arab statements, mobilizing all resources and powers, and employing them to one end, which is the attainment of victory in our inevitable battle of destiny.

Question: Have the Arab countries in general and the Gulf states in particular offered the requisite economic support to deal with some of the economic situations Yemen is suffering from? Has the necessary aid been presented or is their aid below the requisite level?

Answer: There is no doubt--and this we do not deny--that many Arab countries, Arab Gulf countries in particular, are playing their national part as far as we are concerned by embracing a number of important projects which will help us achieve economic and social development and progress; the space would be very long if we tried to get into details. However, we would like to stress here that our urgent developmental needs are receiving full understanding and care from our brothers who are able to provide it, and, were it not for the generous aid we are receiving from them, we would not have been able to make these great strides in the process of construction, development and growth.

Question: What are the features of the second 5-year plan? Is it accompanied by a cultural educational plan to move the productive capabilities of the Yemenis forward?

Answer: In preparing the second 5-year plan we will concentrate on building the domestic economy and translating the principle of self-reliance into reality by concentrating on productive projects, be they agricultural or industrial, especially since we have concentrated on the construction of the basic structures of development in our first 5-year plan. We have made substantial strides in this, as well as realizing basic essential services. This means that we will also concentrate on human development and preparation of the staffs and the technical and scientific capabilities production requires.

Question: Is Yemen suffering from a human drain through the emigration of many of its people to work in Arab and foreign countries?

Answer: Not to a large extent, because our country is rich in tremendous human resources and we have an abundant reserve of workers. However, we are deficient in technicians. Emigration helps us acquire this type of technical worker who returns to the homeland after acquiring skills which are not available here and technical expertise we really are deficient in.

Question: What is the extent of your relationship with the state of Qatar?

Answer: We are linked to the fraternal state of Qatar by warm fraternal relations which have deep historic roots. These are well developed relations which serve the interests of the two fraternal states and their common national aspirations.

I consider this a valuable opportunity to praise the role the fraternal state of Qatar is playing in supporting and backing the course of development of our country and helping us in many fields.

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